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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

- 5 FEB 1947

MONDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 1946

Vol. VII—No. 1

OFFICIAL REPORT



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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

VOLUME VII—1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 28th October, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Section 63-D(2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935

MEMBERS SWORN

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations Departments).

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member).

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting).

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member).

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport).

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (Member for Education and Arts).

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies).

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member).

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, M.L.A. (Delhi General).

Mr. Nayan Malhar Joshi, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-official).

Sir Pheroze Merwan Khanegat C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Department of Agriculture).

Mr. Bhalkhandia Krishna Gokhale C.S.I., C.I.E. M.L.A. (Secretary, Works, Mines and Power Department).

Mr. Govardhan Shankarlal Bhalja C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Defence Department), and

Sir Wilfred Harold Shoobert C.I.E. M.L.A. (Secretary, Communications Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

ACTION FOR THE REDUCTION OF LOSSES IN STORAGE OF GRAIN

1. *Mr. C. P. Lawson: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state—

(a) what steps have been taken in the past year to reduce losses in storage of grain stocks (i) in Government godowns, (ii) in the hands of Government agents, and (iii) in private hands;

(b) what estimated saving is expected to result from these steps,

(c) what tonnage of stocks has been subjected to protective measures; and

(d) what are the estimated losses on grain in storage (i) by rats and insect pests, and (ii) by deterioration owing to bad storage?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The following steps are being taken to reduce losses in storage

(i) and (ii)—Provision of dunnage, proper stacking, regular inspection and turnover of stocks, immediate separation of infested grain and its re-clamation by means of screening, etc., are some of the steps taken to reduce losses

Training courses have been held at Delhi, in future these will be supplemented by regional courses, for officers from Provinces and States to improve technical supervision over grains in storage. Construction of Scientific Storage both by the Centre and the Provinces is also making progress

(iii) Technical advice is given for the improvement of existing godowns, approved designs for the construction of new storage to suit varying requirements are made available to prospective builders, assistance is given in obtaining controlled constructional materials, disinfectants, etc. On our advice, the Punjab Government have amended their marketing rules making it obligatory on grain dealers to maintain their warehouses up to an approved standard as a condition of their license

(b) The saving effected as a result of these measures cannot be estimated with any exactitude but it must be considerable

(c) It is not possible to give an estimate of stocks subjected to various protective measures

(d) The loss of foodgrains by rats is very roughly estimated at 1,000,000 tons and by insects and deterioration due to bad storage about 2,000,000

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if any investigation was made into the position of granaries in which grain is stored by the villagers, and if there were any defects, what steps have been taken by Government to improve those granaries?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The importance of improving storage conditions in the country has been impressed upon the Provincial and State Governments. These Governments are making investigations into the points mentioned by the Honourable Member. We help the private holders of godowns with advice and technical assistance and with priority materials for effecting improvements

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that these investigations have been going on for more than one year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is correct

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any conclusion been reached till now?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There is no conclusion. It is a question of making progress. The Honourable Member has probably read in the press a statement made by one of the officers of the Food Department that during the last two years about 12 lakhs tons of storage has been constructed by Provincial Governments and about 11½ lakhs tons by State Governments. Apart from that, 195,000 tons of storage has been constructed by the Government of India on a 50/50 basis, i.e., half the expenditure is paid by the Centre and half by the Provincial Government concerned.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: How much of this deteriorated grain has been utilised?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not follow the Honourable Member?

Mr. President: How much of this deteriorated grain has been utilised?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not in a position to give exact information about the quantity protected by these measures. Further it is not possible to say how much of such grain was utilised

Beth Govind Dass: Does Government receive periodical reports from Provincial Governments about the improvements in their respective provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is the loss that the Honourable Member has said about three millions less than in the previous year or more?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This is a very rough figure. A few hundred thousand tons saved, does not make much difference to the overall figure of loss.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My question is about more or less than in the previous year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There seems to have been some improvement but I am not in a position to say what the extent is.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Government of India make an effort to obtain reliable statistics about the food position in India? The Honourable Member in reply to this question has not given any exact figures about the savings or about the storage arrangements. He has only

Mr. President: Order, order. What is the question?

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member has said that the total loss by storage due to rats and insects is about three million tons. Is this loss less or more than in the previous year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The reply obviously is that the loss is less. But I am not in a position to say by how much the loss is less.

ACTION FOR INCREASING THE YIELD OF FOOD FROM FISHERIES

2. ***Mr. C. P. Lawson:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department please state the steps taken in the past year to increase the yield of food from fisheries in (i) Bombay, (ii) Bengal, and (iii) South India?

(b) What extra tonnage of fish supplies is expected to result from these measures?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The steps taken by Provinces and the Travancore State with the aid of grants from the Centre include

(1) The setting up of training classes in Bengal and Madras for training fishery officers

(2) The supply of 10,000 carp fry to Bombay from Bengal for stocking tanks

(3) The installation of a Diesel engine in a power boat for Bombay for catching sharks

(4) A daily supply of 170 tons of ice in Bombay which it is hoped will shortly be increased by another 105 tons

(5) The bringing into use of carrier vessels of a total tonnage of 300 tons in Bombay for bringing in catches quickly. It is expected that eight more carrier vessels now under construction will be ready for use shortly

(6) The starting of a company for fisheries (India Fisheries Limited) in Bombay with a capital of Rs. 20 lakhs which is arranging to import a modern fishing boat

(7) The liberation of 4 lakhs of fry in tanks in the Sunderbans area in Bengal covering 100 acres

(8) The starting of rural pisciculture in nine districts in Bengal

(9) Taking up paddy cum fish culture in the 24 parganas in Bengal

(10) The supply of 44,000 fish fry to 179 tank owners in Madras

(11) The appointment of two special officers in Madras for the improvement and modernisation of the primitive types of indigenous craft and tackle

(12) The taking up of technological work for improving fish preservation at Calicut (Madras)

(13) The stocking of a fish farm of 160 acres with mirror carp at Ootacamund (Madras)

(14) The construction of a Marine fish farm in the Adyar Backwaters (Madras)

(15) The stocking of a freshwater farm with 133,000 fingerlings at Chetput (Madras)

(16) The improvement of fish curing yards (Travancore) for the better preservation and marketing of fish

(17) The use of a motor fishing vessel for experimental fishing in Travancore

(18) The starting of a fishing Company [West Coast Fisheries (Travancore) Ltd.], with a capital of Rs. 25 lakhs to exploit the Wadge Bank off Travancore

(b) Bombay secured 800 tons of fish more in 1945-46 than in the previous year. Bengal expect to secure some 3,000 tons of extra fish when their plant is in full swing and South India expect some 50,000 tons extra.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he can tell the House of the particular steps Government are taking to attract capital for big-scale fishery operations?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It is hoped that the capital that will be required for big-scale operations will be found by the capitalists in the country. But the Government are taking steps to carry out experimental work, and they hope before long to set up a fisheries research institute with several sections, possibly at Karachi, Bombay, Mandapam and Calcutta in order to find out what the most suitable means are for securing more fish. It is also understood that a private company is shortly being started for the exploitation of fish in the Andamans.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary be pleased to state that the Government will see that the fishery matter does not go into the hands of capitalists?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It is presumed that the Provincial Government will take care to see that the profits arising from the exploitation of fish do not remain with the capitalists.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Apart from big-scale fishery operations, is the Honourable Member satisfied that so far as Bengal at least is concerned, the fishermen have got an adequate supply of fishing nets and fishing boats which they lost during the war years and also due to the famine?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am fully aware of the fact, Sir, that there is an acute shortage of fishing nets and fishing boats in Bengal. But steps are being taken by the Government to supply the yarn required for the making of more nets and the timber that is needed for the building of more boats.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether Government have taken any action in improving fisheries in country ponds and tanks which is being overlooked, because the matter is in the hands of the capitalists?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes, many of the items which I have referred to in my reply relate to inland tanks. In the U.P. in particular I believe something like 45,000 maunds of extra fish have been secured by developing tanks and ponds.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know what steps are possible for the Government of India to take for the rehabilitation of those fishermen of East Bengal who have lost their nets and their houses during the recent disturbances in that part of the Bengal?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The matter has not yet been considered but we presume that the Government of Bengal will send up their proposals in due course.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Government of India take the initiative in coming into contact with the Government of Bengal in this matter?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Certainly.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: May I know what is the total tonnage built by either the Government of Bengal or will be built by the Government of India to replace the boats withdrawn in the denial policy adopted in Bengal during the war?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I must ask for notice of that question, because the matter relates primarily to the action taken by the Government of Bengal.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: As regards the notice asked for by the Honourable Member, I should like to know how much of the tonnage built has been distributed between transportation and fishing?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I do not follow the question.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Many thousand tons of boats have been built in Bengal and I thought the Government of India knew something about it. Now I want to know the tonnage of boats that are already in the possession of the Government, and how much of it will go for transportation purposes and how much to the poor fishermen whose boats were taken away?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I must again ask for notice, because the information will have to be obtained from the Government of Bengal.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Have Government assured themselves that fish is proper and suitable food for human beings and that the cruelty involved in killing fish is justified by the results achieved?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The reply is in the affirmative.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Secretary inform the House what is the percentage of the extra fish caught which is unknown to all classes of people who refuse to consume it and which is therefore thrown away?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I do not follow the question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does the Honourable Member know that past experience has shown that some fish from deep sea fishing is unknown to our people of all classes who therefore refuse to consume it? Will the Honourable Member therefore take steps to educate our people with regard to the classes of fish which are being caught now and teach them to consume it, because it is wholesome edible fish?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Please do not do anything of the sort!

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We are aware of the fact that there are certain types of fish which are caught at present which are not generally eaten by the people and steps will be taken when the Research Institute is set up to find out what types of fish caught are edible and suitable to the tastes of people and steps will be taken to utilise the other fish for commercial purposes.

RAIL-ROAD COORDINATION SCHEME

3. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state

(a) whether the Interim Government have prepared any scheme for Rail-Road Co-ordination, if not, whether they contemplate to do so in the near future, and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to consult the Motor Transport Unions before launching on any scheme of Rail Road Co-ordination and further assure this House that in any such scheme the interests of the operators now on Road will be adequately safeguarded?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) The main principles of the Interim Government's policy are as follows—

(i) They are convinced of the necessity for rail-road co-ordination in order to avoid wasteful competition, to protect Government finances and to provide more efficient and co-ordinated transport services for the benefit of the public.

(ii) They consider that in most, if not all, Provinces this can best be achieved so far as passenger transport is concerned, by the formation of tripartite companies on the lines of the White Paper.

(iii) If any Provincial Government does not favour the formation of tripartite companies but wishes to form some other road transport organisation such as a provincialised transport organisation and such a scheme provides for substantial financial participation by the Railways, the Central Government, while not objecting to financial participation by the Railways, would continue to urge that an equitable adjustment of the existing operators' rights should not be overlooked.

- As desired by the House during the last Budget session, the Provincial Ministry Governments were asked whether they would be able to accept the broad principles of the scheme set out in the White Paper. The details of Government's policy will be subject to modification in the light of views expressed by Provincial Governments. So far only three final replies have been received from the Provinces who doubtless have already consulted or will consult local transport interests.

As regards goods transport, the general policy is to reserve long-distance traffic for the railways and to allow road transport to cater for short distance and door to door traffic. This policy has been accepted by a majority of the Provincial Governments, and as regards the remainder, the matter is under their consideration.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that some of the Provinces are going ahead with this railroad co-ordination scheme? For instance, in the United Provinces they have formulated a scheme of their own. May I know from the Government of India whether they intend to have a uniform policy all over India in consultation with the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As the Honourable Member knows the attention of the Government of India was to have a uniform scheme all over India but we have no power over the Provinces. It is a provincial subject and if they wish to provincialise road transport, we cannot prevent them. All that we would like to be able to do is merely to tell them what we think is the best thing in their own interests and in the interests of the Government of India, because both the assets naturally belong to the nation.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member referred to tripartite companies. Does he mean that a majority of the shares will be held by the Railways and the Provincial Governments concerned and only a certain percentage will be thrown open to the public?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: My Honourable friend is even better aware than I am (because he has been taking a lot of interest in road rail co-ordination) that the tripartite scheme does not necessarily mean that the Railways and the Provincial Government concerned should hold a majority of shares in these companies whenever they are formed but they may or may not do so, and we cannot force them to do so either. All that we can insist upon is that so far as the Central Government are concerned the Railways should have a financial interest in it which should not be less than 25 per cent.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: In view of the undoubted importance of this question, will not the Government think it advisable to call a conference of Provincial Ministers and review the whole position?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We have already addressed all the Provincial Governments on the subject and we have sent also reminders after reminders. I have myself personally interviewed almost every Provincial Minister who came from the provinces and tried to persuade him to agree to the scheme and I am fully prepared to call a conference of all Provincial Ministers interested in this scheme and I am prepared to discuss the whole thing with them.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know which are the three Provincial Governments which have accepted the scheme and sent a reply and if so to what effect?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am prepared to answer that question, although I wish my learned friend had put down notice of it. At present

there are three governments who have definitely replied officially, we have received replies from other governments unofficially which it would not be worth my while or your while to reveal here. The three governments who have officially replied are the North-West Frontier Province, the Punjab and Sind.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know which province is in favour of state control or provincial control of motor transport entirely?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As far as I can judge the tendency from the replies received and from the various information that is available to us is for the provinces to provincialise road transport as far as possible.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that the opposition in the last assembly session was against the formation of companies of this kind, will the Honourable Member consult this assembly before a final decision is taken regarding the formation of similar companies?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid my Honourable friend is under some misapprehension. The opposition in the last Assembly session was not to the tripartite scheme—it was entirely and absolutely confined to one point namely, that the popular Provincial Ministries should have a chance of looking into this scheme. They did not object to the tripartite scheme at all, and we have waited all this time for the answers of the various governments. As you know, some of them are forming their own schemes. We have not received all the official replies so far, but I shall bear the point to which the learned questioner has referred, in mind.

Miss Maniben Kara: May I have an assurance from the Honourable Member that, in such scheme of rail-road co-ordination wherein a large mass of the public is very greatly interested and which affects the lives of conductors, drivers and various other menial staff as well as the travelling public—the trades unions will get representation and have a voice in the shaping of the policy of this committee?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As far as I know the government's intention is to see that every one gets a fair deal, particularly those who are working, and I can assure the Honourable Member that in so far as lies in our power we will try and see that they get a fair deal, but we cannot force the provinces to do what is their duty. We cannot interfere with them.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the Honourable Member know that some statements were issued by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant in the United Provinces before the elections took place and he had given a sort of assurance to the bus conductors or bus owners in a certain manner. Does the Honourable Member think that he is going to stick to those assurances given by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant now?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I think this question really ought to be put to Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant—it hardly arises here. I do not know what he is going to do now.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: The Honourable Member informed the House that it was the policy of the Government of India to reserve long distance traffic for rail transport. May I ask him to tell the House whether in consulting the Provincial Governments or making any recommendations to them, that was laid down as a *sine qua non* or whether the provincial governments were allowed any discretion on that particular point?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That question is still under discussion between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

4. ***Sadar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state

(a) whether Government of India have decided to appoint an Industrial Commission with comprehensive terms of reference or contemplate to appoint one in the near future, and

(b) whether Government will consider that the terms of reference include matters relating to the fiscal policy also?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I trust, on behalf of the Honourable Industries Member, I may be permitted to answer the questions today.

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if the Government of India is considering the appointment of an Industrial Commission?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have said the answer is in the negative.

COTTON TEXTILE FACTORIES IN INDIA

5. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how many cotton textile factories are there in India at present and what is their number province-wise?

(b) How many new cotton textile factories have been sanctioned and how have they been distributed amongst the different provinces?

(c) What will be the full productive capacity of factories when all of them are in full working order?

(d) Have the interests of the handloom workers been properly safeguarded while running the scheme of the organisation of the textile industry? If so, how?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (i) and (b) A statement giving the desired information is placed on the table of the House. The spindlage of the new mills is not uniform. Some Provinces have accepted our suggestion that a "coarse" mill should be composed of 25,000 spindles and a "fine" mill of 19,000 spindles, but in certain cases they have decided to establish mills of fewer spindles. Government of India have allotted the number of spindles to various provinces as in the statement placed on the table. It has been left to the Provinces themselves to distribute these spindles amongst the various factories within the province.

(c) 6,500 million yards a year if all mills work 14½ hours per day for 300 days in the year.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 5 of the Government of India, Resolution No 205-TA/46, dated the 4th May, 1946, passed on the Planning Committee's report on expansion of the Cotton Textile Industry.

Statement showing the number of existing and proposed new cotton textile mills in India.

Name of Province	Number of existing mills	Number of proposed mills
Bombay	209	24 (352,000 spindles)
Madras	69	16 (325,000 spindles)
Bengal	37	12 (264,000 spindles)
U P	30	15 (437,000 spindles)
Punjab	8	9 (213,000 spindles)
Bihar	2	6 (151,000 spindles)
C P & Berar	11	4 (119,000 spindles)
Orissa	..	3 (75,000 spindles)
Sind	.	4 (100,000 spindles)
Assam	.	.
Delhi	6	.
In States	45	32 (708,000 spindles)
Total	417	125

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know which of the provinces have decided to nationalise the textile industry?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: As far as I know, no province has yet nationalised the textile industry.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Government aware that the Assam Government have decided to nationalise the textile industry and for that reason all private enterprise is stopped supply of machinery and spindles?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have already said that the decision is with the governments of the provinces to distribute the quota within the province—which includes themselves if they nationalise the industry.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member if the government are in complete agreement with the textile policy proposed by the Madras Premier and if not what their policy is going to be?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Notice Sir for that.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: How many textile factories are there in Assam?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Today in Assam nil.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: On what principle are the spindles distributed among the various provinces?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The elements that go to decide the distribution among the provinces are—the present number, deficit quantity, and other circumstances of importance.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that the Jalandhar industry applied for spindles for starting textile mills in Assam and that permission given has been withdrawn by the government of India?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have not quite followed the first part of the question.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I explain? Before the Assam Government issued a communique that they will nationalise the textile industry in Assam, the Jalandhar industries applied for machinery and spindles and such application was granted but subsequently the supply of spindles was stopped?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: There was a request for increasing the spindles allotted to the Karnatak Province and it was supported by the Government of Bombay, but afterwards permission to give additional spindleage was refused on the ground that Bombay was treated as a surplus province.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have already said that the Bombay Government will have to take the responsibility of distributing their quota within the province, whatever the linguistic area may be.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that the Madras Government is following a particular policy with respect to textile industry, will the Government of India think of having some uniform policy in this respect for all provinces?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: That is an argument. It is left to every province to follow its own line of action.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: What is the quantity of spindles for the Bombay Province?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The number of existing mills is 209, the number of proposed mills is 24, and the total new spindleage is 352,000 for Bombay.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member please state what steps have been taken by Government to implement the resolution which was moved by Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang and adopted by the House to the effect that one-third of the total output of yarn should be made available for handloom weavers?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: That will be coming in a subsequent question †

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is open to any Provincial Government, if any allotment has been made to that Provincial Government by way of spindles, to say that the spindles shall not come into that province and shall not be given to persons who have started the textile industry there?

• **The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari:** The question should be put in the Provincial Assembly?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the attitude of the Central Government towards those who have already started construction of buildings and sent in applications for machinery and spindles?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: When the difficulties arise the Central Government will consider them. No such complaints have yet come to the Central Government.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the permits to purchase textile factories are given by the Government of India on the recommendation of a committee in which the textile manufacturers have got a preponderating voice and that is the reason

Sri Sri Prakasa: He has answered his own question!

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The dominating consideration is the recommendation of the province and not of any private bodies.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is there any committee appointed by the Government?

(No reply)

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS INTO INDIA FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

6. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state what quantity of food-grains have been imported into India from the United States of America during the last six months from 15th April to 15th October 1946?

(b) Has the allotted full quota been received? If not, what is the shortage and how do Government propose to make up the deficiency?

(c) What were the estimates of production of food-grains in India and how is the position now?

Mr. B. E. Sen: (a) 322,429 tons

(b) No. Shipments from the United States of America are some 164,000 tons behind the programme. The Government of India have done what was possible to mitigate the effect of this by importing grain from other sources and by tightening up both procurement and distribution in India.

(c) The position as estimated in January was that the total production of foodgrains would be 55.78 million tons. The latest estimate is that the 1945-46 crop was only 53.96 million tons.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member tell us what was the shortage from the U. S. A.?

Mr. B. E. Sen: The shortage is 164,000 tons.

Sardar Mangal Singh: How much has been met by imports from other countries?

Mr. B. E. Sen: The overall deficit in India is much greater. It has been made up to a certain extent by imports from countries like Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Argentine.

Sardar Mangal Singh: How much has been imported. Surely the Government of India must have the figures?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member is putting the question in a form which is difficult to answer. We have a heavy deficit this year. The deficit is being met not only from the United States of America, but also from other countries.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: What is the programme of further shipments?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have got a programme for October. The programme for November and December is still to be sent.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether any arrangement has been made to send grains to the various provinces according to the tastes of those provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is one of the primary considerations we have in mind.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then why not send the wheat supplied to South India now to the north and send rice instead to South India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This is an old question. The fact of the matter is that the deficit of Madras runs into millions of tons. We can supply only a certain quantity in certain grains. If we do not supply the wheat which we are supplying to Madras now, Madras will have to go without any grain in its place.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Both in U. P. and the Punjab there are quantities of rice which are not wanted there. They are dumping rice in a province where it is not wanted?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is not wholly correct. This proposal has been before the House from time to time. In the case of the United Provinces, there is a certain population, particularly in the Eastern districts, whose food is rice and not wheat. In the Punjab there are certain districts like Kangra where the staple food is rice. We have made a definite proposition to the Punjab Government that if they give us one lakh tons of rice we are prepared to send one lakh tons of wheat in its place. That proposition is before the Punjab Government now and we hope to get an early reply.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: What is the total quantity imported from Australia?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The total quantity as far as I remember is 520,000 tons this year.

Miss Maniben Kara: There is always a shortage of food. Food shortage is more or less a chronic situation in this country. May I know if the Government of India are considering the policy of nationalisation of land?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I want notice of that question.

DE-CONTROL OF SUGAR

7. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state when it would be possible for Government to decontrol the scale and supply of sugar?

(b) What is the total production of sugar during the last year and the current year and what are the military requirements during these two years?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The control on sugar is necessary to effect an equitable distribution to the public of the inadequate supplies available. It is, therefore, proposed to remove the control in the near future.

(b) The production of sugar during 1944-45 and 1945-46 seasons was 9,72,000 tons and 9,48,000 tons respectively. The military requirements during these years were 79,232 tons and 34,832 tons.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is Government taking any steps to increase the production of sugar and remove the control?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Government are taking steps and the first of them is the recent announcement that the price of sugarcane will be increased in Bihar and U. P. from 0-14-6 to Rs. 1-4-0 per maund.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are any steps being taken to minimise the disparity in the quotas of distribution of sugar between rural and urban areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is a matter entirely in the discretion of the Provincial Governments.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it the policy of Government that persons with incomes of Rs 10 and less should have no sugar at all in urban areas in the U. P.?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The distribution is made on the basis of consumption before the war and it is left to the Provincial Governments to make the best use of the sugar that is allotted to them.

Seth Govind Das: For how many years has there been no export of sugar from this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: So far as I am aware, there has been no export of sugar from this country.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Was there a ban on such export from this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not aware of that.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: What does he mean by equitable distribution? Does he mean that those persons who were accustomed to *gur* should now be forced to eat sugar as is being done now?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is not our intention. It is left to the Provincial Governments to make the most equitable distribution according to the circumstances of each area.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: You must define what equitable distribution means.

TENDERS FOR BOOKSTALL LICENCES ON RAILWAYS

8. **Sardar Sampuran Singh:** (a) Will the Honorable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that in reply to question No. 250 asked by the Honorable Mr. Sampat Singh in the Council of State on the 8th April, 1946 it was stated that Government would consider the advisability of inviting public tenders for book-stalls on the station premises of different railways by publishing necessary advertisement to this effect in all the important newspapers of the country before deciding the question of awarding this contract?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative will Government please state how it is that the East Indian Railway and the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway administrations do not propose to call for tenders for book-stall licence?

(c) Are Government aware that it is the established practice in all the Government Departments to invite tenders for different contracts?

(d) If so, what special reasons there are for the East Indian Railway and the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway to violate this practice?

(e) Are Government aware that the North Western Railway administration invited tenders for a similar contract some time back and that even the old contractor offered to pay by way of Royalty as much as five times the amount which he was paying before?

(f) Do Government propose to see that the East Indian Railway and the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway do not put the Government to financial loss by not inviting public tenders for this contract?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes

(b) The Railways concerned do propose to call for tenders before the date of termination of the present agreements. I may, however, state with regard to the contract on the B. B. & C. I. Railway that the information given in reply to part (c) of question No. 250 asked by the Honourable Mr. Sampat Singh in the Council of State on the 8th April, 1946, has been found incorrect to the extent that the termination on 31st December 1946, of the contract entered into by the B. B. & C. I. Railway was dependent on a notice having been given

12 months earlier in terms of the contract itself. Actually such notice was not given and in consequence the contract was automatically extended upto 31st December 1951, as provided for by the terms thereof

(c) Yes

(d) In view of the reply to part (b) of the question, does not arise

(e) Yes

(f) In view of the reply to part (b) of the question, does not arise

Sardar Sampuran Singh: Has the Government now taken note of the fact that in future when they want to make such provisions in their agreement, they should give notice of one year before the termination of the contract?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is not the usual practice and various agreements are bound to vary from time to time. It certainly is not the policy of the Government to make a twelve months notice obligatory or accept any such notice always.

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES IN DELHI

9. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state

(a) whether Government are aware of transport difficulties in Delhi and the costly nature of available facilities,

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that motor cars which are available for hire charge very heavy rates,

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is no regular convenient motor bus service for office-men and for newcomers to Delhi, and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of improving motor bus service in the city and introducing taxis on metre rates?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Such transport difficulties as exist in Delhi are believed to be no more serious than those in many other large cities in India and abroad. At the same time Government admit that such difficulties exist and will do what they can to remove them. The G. N. I. T. fleet has been increased by the addition of a large number of vehicles during the past six months and now operates over practically the whole of Delhi. The number of taxi cabs has been raised from 200 to 225 recently. The fares charged by the G. N. I. T. have recently been reduced.

(b) Taxi cab fares have been fixed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. When detected overcharging is punished by the suspension of permits.

(c) Suburbs inhabited to any appreciable extent by Government servants are connected with the Government offices by special services. Delhi main station is situated on a number of bus routes.

(d) Constant efforts are being made to improve the bus services in Delhi. The compulsory fitting of taxi meters to the taxi cabs is not at present feasible since meters are not yet available.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is it not a fact that as no meters or very few of them are available, the taxi drivers charge most exorbitant fares and there is no redress against it? Has the Honourable Member ever travelled in a taxi cab?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I think I have had occasions to engage taxis from time to time, but in so far as the question of exorbitant rates goes, I can assure the Honourable Member that every time a driver is detected his permit shall go.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What are the steps that can be taken to ensure such detection more easily?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The very best thing that can be done under the circumstances will be for the person who has suffered to go and report the matter to the police.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I ask if the Honourable Member will not make an effort himself and try to adopt the method which was practised by Harun-ur-Rashid?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I would leave it to the Honourable Member to try.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: The Honourable Member is undoubtedly aware of the fact that there is a great deal of public resentment against the monopoly held by the G N I T for running buses in Delhi and now that he is in a position to remove this favoured treatment, may I ask what steps he is going to take?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, the policy of the Government is not to allow any monopolies anywhere, and in so far as the G N I T is concerned, the whole question is under review today. In fact, there is a question down on the paper by Dr Chatterjee which I shall answer a little later.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that I had to pay Rs 4 for each tonga yesterday—and I had two—from the Delhi Railway Station to my place, while the Government pays me only Rs 2 for this journey?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Government allows Rs 5 a day to every Honourable Member for conveyance.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I suggest that the system of charging by meters be introduced in Delhi because the taxi drivers charge very high rates? I was charged Rs 8 yesterday from the Railway Station to my place.

Mr President: Next question.

PRICE OF INDIAN SILK

10. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is the policy of Government to treat Indian silk as a national industry?

(b) What steps are being taken by the Government of India for ensuring fair, economic and remunerative price for Indian silk?

(c) What steps are being taken for protecting Indian silk from foreign competition and for seeing that it is not displaced by such foreign silk in Indian market or put to low price level as a result of competition?

(d) What steps are being taken by the Government of India for co-ordinating the efforts of different provinces and the states for the purpose of standardising quality and grades of silk and for standardising prices?

(e) How do Government propose to fix the price of foreign silk which India has received and will be receiving as part of war reparations scheme?

(f) What are the general recommendations of the Silk Panel with regard to the foregoing and how far and in what way do Government propose to deal with such recommendations for the purpose of speedy implementation?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) It is not clear what exactly the Honourable Member means by "national" industry, but Government certainly consider the silk industry to be a very important industry.

(b) Silk was controlled as regards prices from June 1945 to August 1946. Government are collecting from the main producing centres data regarding costs of production to enable them to determine what should be regarded as fair prices for Indian silk. The present market prices are higher than the old control prices which had been fixed after due enquiry.

(c) As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, the Indian silk industry enjoys tariff protection. Every care will be taken to safeguard the industry against unfair competition.

(d) At a conference held in September 1946 with the Provinces and States concerned this matter was taken up, and action in the sense referred to by the Honourable Member is under consideration.

(e) No foreign silk has so far been received by India as part of reparations. If and when an allotment is received, Government will sell it at a fair price.

(f) Government have received the report of the Silk Panel. The report will after finalisation be placed before the proposed Central Advisory Planning Board. Finalisation means consultation with the Provinces and the States.

(After a pause)

If there is no supplementary question on this I should like to correct a mistake with reference to answer to a previous question.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am putting a supplementary question, Sir. The Honourable Member has said that the price of silk has gone up. May I know if the Government of India are thinking of re-imposing control on the price of silk?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I cannot promise that.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I ask it it is not a fact that during the last one month or so the price of Indian silk has gone down below the control rate and that on account of the fact that some merchants were able previously to have access to the Government they were able to spread a rumour that foreign silk was available and therefore they were putting down the prices?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I am not aware of what has been suggested.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member has said that if he receives any quota of silk as a reparation, he will sell it to the public at a fair price. May I ask if he will similarly consider the question that the silk that may be available in the Disposals Directorate will be sold to the public at a fair price and not at a competition price?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: That is a definite policy in regard to all disposals.

Miss Maniben Kara: Am I to understand from the Honourable Member's reply to part (e) of the question that the policy of the Government will be to safeguard Indian industry by giving it tariff protection?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have answered about silk. It would not be right to treat other matters as supplementary to it.

Miss Maniben Kara: I want to know whether the Government have decided already to have the policy of giving protection to the silk industry by raising tariffs?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have already answered that in the matter of silk the policy of the Government is to protect it against foreign competition. I am not able to follow what the supplementary question is.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may now correct the answer to the supplementary question.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: With reference to question No. 5, a supplementary question was put by an Honourable Member about protection to handlooms and I said it was coming in a later question. It was involved in a sub-clause of that question itself. I might assure the Honourable Member that sufficient safeguard has been provided by reserving at least 25 per cent of the new spindlages for free yarn for handloom production.

Mr. President: Order, order, the question hour is over.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, whenever a large portion of the time in the question hour is taken up in oath taking, the convention of the House is to give extra time for questions.

Mr. President: The convention is to the contrary. I myself made enquires yesterday as I thought I might give some time if permissible.

Shri Sri Prakasa: On one occasion, I remember, Sir, Sir Abdur Rahim, the former President gave 20 minutes more for questions.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

FACILITIES FOR RAILWAY PASSENGERS

11. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable the Railway Minister please state what steps Government are taking for

(a) the running of larger number of trains particularly those running long distances,

(b) the allocation of larger number of third class and inter class coaches for each of such trains,

(c) the increased and improved water supply for such coaches,

(d) the introduction of more satisfactory method of getting tickets at all hours of the day and night

(e) providing sleeping accommodation for inter class and third class passengers travelling long distances during nights,

(f) providing fan service and sanitary amenities for such classes and passengers,

(g) the catering arrangements for such passengers inside the train,

(h) providing medical facilities for passengers of all through trains,

(i) the introduction of a common class for all passengers particularly for trains which run during day time, and

(j) the introduction of watch and ward for each compartment so that the passengers are constantly looked after and their grievances promptly redressed?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Between the cessation of hostilities and the 1st October 1946, Class I Railways have reintroduced or extended a total of 988 trains, representing an additional daily train mileage of 64570 on both Broad and Metro Gauge Railways. Similar figures for Class II Railways are 26 trains, involving an addition of 952 train miles per day.

As more stock becomes available by release from the Defence Department and by building in Railway workshops, passenger services will be further increased.

Apart from the above, the principal means of putting on more passenger trains is by obtaining more passenger vehicles. By March 1948, the Railway Board expect to obtain nearly 1000 additional Broad Gauge passenger vehicles. This represents about a 12 per cent increase on the coaches at present available for service. A further 5 per cent improvement can be expected in the repair statistics by that date. It is therefore expected that a further improvement of about 17 per cent in the number of passenger trains operating, principally long-distance trains, will be obtained by about April 1948.

Somewhat similar figures are expected in respect of Metro Gauge services.

(b) Of the new Broad Gauge vehicles mentioned in (a), it is intended that the great majority will be III class and these will effect a greater improvement in the availability of III class accommodation than in other classes. The allocation of the number of coaches of each class on particular trains must be left to the Railway Administrations to arrange in proportion to the number of passengers of each class normally travelling.

(c) The Railway Board have formulated long-range plans to effect an improvement in the water supply of all coaches. Such long-range plans will take some time to become effective. For immediate purposes, arrangements have been made for the more frequent filling of water tanks. It is not expected that any substantial improvement can be effected immediately due to difficulty in obtaining supplies of material.

(d) The number of stations with 24-hours booking arrangements has been increased and at other stations booking hours have been extended as required. Additional booking windows and more booking clerks have been provided at a number of stations where the demand has been felt.

(e) The provision of sleeping accommodation for a considerable percentage of Inter and III class passengers is a prominent feature under consideration in the Railway Board's post-war coach design. The financial implications of providing this amenity are now under close and detailed examination. It is anticipated that the provision of such amenities cannot be separated from the question of increasing fares.

(f) For the future III class, a large number of better designed lavatories have been planned and these will come into circulation as new vehicles to the post-war designs are built. As regards fans in III class carriages, a new method of meeting the additional electric load which would be involved is under close examination by the Railway Board, but no decision has yet been reached.

(g) Some Railways have Indian Dining Cars running on certain trains which cater for all classes of Passengers. Their extension as well as introduction of any further arrangements necessary to meet demands will be considered after the next meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways, at which the subject is to be discussed.

(h) Facilities for rendering first-aid are available at stations and in trains. Station Masters maintain up-to-date lists of available medical practitioners either belonging to the Railway or outside, and are required to summon medical aid from the nearest source available whenever required and if necessary, to arrange transport to the nearest hospital.

(i) The Government do not contemplate the introduction of a common class for all passengers.

(j) The Government do not consider it would be either practical or useful to post a watchman in each compartment. Railways have increased the strength of their Watch and Ward staff to give greater protection to passengers and railway property. Some Railways have running on their important trains some staff known as Conductor Guards to look after passengers' needs. Certain Railways have also appointed Passenger Guides at important stations to help passengers while on station platforms. Government propose to consider the question of further extending these arrangements.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO RE-PUBLISH THE SEWAK FROM AKOLA

12. ***Mr. P. B. Gole:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is a fact that a Marathi Weekly newspaper by name *Sewak* was being printed and published at Akola from 1937 to February 1940?

(b) Is it a fact that the said newspaper discontinued publication owing to shortage of paper on account of war conditions?

(c) Is it a fact that after the cessation of hostilities the printer and publisher of the said newspaper applied for permission for re-publishing the said newspaper and also for a quota of news-print, four times during the last twelve months and whether permission was refused?

(d) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Akola recommended for the grant of permission and quota?

(e) Why was permission refused for the re-publication of the said newspaper when permission for new newspapers has been granted?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes

(b) The paper suspended publication in 1940 before the promulgation of the Newsprint Control Order. It may be due to the cause stated.

(c) It is true that several applications were made on behalf of the paper.

(d) The report of a district officer to his Provincial Government cannot be made the subject of an answer.

(e) Permission was refused due to acute shortage of Newsprint.

PERMISSION FOR PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPERS IN C P AND BERAR AFTER TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES AND THE QUOTA OF NEWS PRINT DEMANDED BY THE SEWAK

13. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that permissions for publication of new vernacular and English newspapers in Central Provinces and Berar have been granted after the cessation of hostilities? If so, how many such newspapers have been permitted to be published and how much quota of news-print has been allotted to such new publications?

(b) What was the quota of news-print demanded by the publisher of the *Sewak* the Marathi Weekly published at Akola? What was the quota allotted to new newspapers?

(c) Are Government aware that the said newspaper, *Sewak* served a very useful purpose in the Akola District and was particularly devoted to the cause of Agriculturists in the District and was also recognised by the education department?

(d) Do Government propose to grant the necessary permission for publication and quota of newsprint especially when the demand for news-print is a very small one and when the newspaper is much in demand in Akola District?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes Two newspapers with a total quota of three tons and three cwts have been granted permission to start publication

(b) $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons per year For the second question please see (a) above

(c) This may be so

(d) Permission has been granted for re-starting the newspaper with a suitable quota

MONOPOLY OF THE G N I T CO FOR RUNNING BUS SERVICES IN DELHI PROVINCE

14. *Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state if it is a fact that the Gwalior and Northern India Transport Company have been granted the monopoly for running Bus services in Delhi Province?

(b) Do Government intend to permit other transport companies to run Bus services in Delhi Province?

(c) Are Government aware—

(i) that the bus services run by the Gwalior and Northern India Transport Company are inadequate and that there is a great deal of overcrowding;

(ii) that the number of buses is insufficient and run at infrequent intervals,

(iii) that the fares charged by this company are approximately two annas per mile, and

(iv) that a number of buses used by the Company on long runs are old and extremely uncomfortable?

(d) Will Government be prepared to investigate into the very high rate of fares charged and the grievances of the public using these buses?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The reply is in the negative. Companies other than the G N I T operate buses on the rural routes

(b) Government have the future of Delhi transport under consideration.

(c) (i) and (ii) The number of buses and services operated by the G N I T are reported to be now adequate. It is realised that there is some congestion during peak periods but steps including the authorisation of additional petrol and a large increase in the number of buses have recently been taken to alleviate the position.

(iii) The reply is in the negative. Except in the case of one special service the basic rate was formerly one anna per mile but this has recently been reduced to one anna per mile for the first three miles and six pies per mile for any subsequent mileage.

(iv) Some of the buses are old but the old vehicles are gradually being replaced by new vehicles fitted with comfortable bodies.

(d) The present fares are not considered to be unduly high in the circumstances. Government are always prepared to investigate any reasonable complaints.

APPOINTMENT OF SIR HENRY KNIGHT IN THE FOOD DEPARTMENT
FOR SOUTHERN INDIA

15. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) the reasons for appointing Sir Henry Knight to a special appointment in the Food Department for Southern India,

(b) the terms of his contract stating the period for which he was employed and the salary fixed,

(c) the actual period of his service,

(d) whether the post was advertised, if not, why not,

(e) why no Indian was appointed to this post, and

(f) whether his successor has been appointed, if so, who is he?

Mr. B. B. Sen: The proposal for the appointment of Sir Henry Knight was dropped. The question does not, therefore, arise.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON RAILWAYS

16. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) which of the Railway Systems passing through British India, have not yet set up Railway Advisory Committees,

(b) if Government propose to take steps to have such Committees appointed, if not, why not, and

(c) what arrangements exist for the public to advise Railways on matters generally brought before Railway Committees, where no Advisory Committees exist?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Among Class I Railways, the Jodhpur Railway, Class II, the Gaekwar's Baroda State Railway, the Bhavnagar State Railway, the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur-Light Railway, and Class III, all Railways passing through British India.

(b) The Jodhpur Railway are considering the question of the formation of a Local Railway Advisory Committee. As regards Class II and III Railways, they are small and the Government do not consider it necessary to press for the formation of Local Advisory Committees on those Railways.

(c) The public can advise the Railways concerned through the usual channels of letters, publication in newspapers, or through personal interviews with the officers of the Railways.

INTERFERENCE BY THE JODHPUR RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION IN THE MANAGEMENT
OF HYDERABAD (SIND) STATION

17. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Hyderabad (Sind) is a joint working station of North Western and Jodhpur Railways, if so, whether there is any agreement

for such working, and whether a copy thereof will be laid on the table of the House,

(b) whether it is a fact that the Hyderabad (Smd) Station is managed by the North Western Railway agency,

(c) whether it is a fact that the Jodhpur Railway Administration has given an agency for the issue of upper class tickets at Hyderabad (Sind), if so, why,

(d) what other sources exist at Hyderabad (Sind) for the purchase of upper class tickets, and the number of tickets sold during the months of April, 1946, and August, 1946, separately, by all these sources, and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to avoid interference by the Jodhpur Railway Administration in the management of the Hyderabad (Sind) Station in the matter of sale of tickets?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes A copy of the Agreement under execution is placed on the table of the House

(b) Yes

(c) Yes The Jodhpur Railway is a party to a tripartite agreement which the North Western Railway have with City Booking Agents for the issue of all classes of tickets from Booking Offices in Hyderabad City The Jodhpur Railway is a party to this agreement because the booking of passengers from Hyderabad (Sind) to and via that Railway is a local transaction of that Railway

(d) The Indian Railway Conference Association have recognised a number of tourist agents and the Jodhpur Railway have a general agreement with one of them for the issue of tickets This Agency have an office in Hyderabad (Sind) from which Upper Class tickets are issued

A statement showing the number of tickets issued for April, 1946 and August, 1946 by all sources is laid on the table of the House

(e) In view of reply to part (c) above, this question does not arise

NORTH WESTERN AND JODHPUR RAILWAYS HYDERABAD JUNCTION STATION AGREEMENT

Agreement between the North Western Railway (as the working Agency for Hyderabad joint station) and the Jodhpur Railway for the performance of all work in connection with Jodhpur Railway Traffic at Hyderabad Station

SCHEDULE No 1

Working Arrangements

1 General Principles

This Agreement is based on the following principles and is to be interpreted in accordance with them —

(a) That all broad gauge track and all premises works and working plant provided for the exclusive use of the North Western Railway as well as for the joint use of both the Railways are the property of the N W Railway

All metrie gauge track all works provided for the exclusive use of the J Railway are the property of the Jodhpur Railway

(b) That the North Western Railway is solely responsible for the Administrative control maintenance of all works in joint use and provision of facilities at joint stations

(c) For working and maintaining Hyderabad Station including transhipment of goods both ways and all other expenses that may in the ordinary course arise therefrom, Jodhpur Railway will adequately remunerate the North Western Railway as provided in part II of this agreement

(d) That except when otherwise specially provided, the conference Rules, with regard to working arrangements shall apply

(e) The "Local" traffic of the Jodhpur Railway means all traffic booked from or to Hyderabad to from or via the Jodhpur Railway

(f) That "through" or "interchanged" traffic means all traffic booked via Hyderabad between the Jodhpur Railway and via on the one hand and the North Western Railway and via on the other hand

(g) North Western Railway passing traffic means all traffic of N W Railway between stations on the N W Railway on the either side of Hyderabad Sind Junction Station and which therefore only passes through the junction station

2 *Duration of Agreement and Notice or termination*—This agreement shall be deemed to have come into force from 1st October, 1937, and shall remain in force for 'en years and six months from the said date, provided however, that unless this agreement is determined or modified by either party on six months notice in writing, terminating on 31st March, 1948, such notice being accompanied by a new agreement or a corrigendum, it shall be deemed to be in force from year to year till determined on six months' notice terminating on 31st March, subject to the aforesaid stipulations by either party

NOTE.—This agreement cancels the previous agreement dated 22nd November, 1905, between the North Western and Jodhpur Railways for the working of Hyderabad (Sind), Detha and Tando Thana joint stations

3 *Limits of Hyderabad Station*—(a) On the Jodhpur Railway Main Line the outer signal at Mirpur Khas end

(b) On the N W Railway the up outer signals of Hyderabad station in up direction and down outer signal in the down direction

4 *Construction, maintenance and provision of Permanent Way Structures Buildings and other facilities*—(a) The North Western Railway is entirely responsible for constructing, renting or otherwise providing and maintaining in good order all structures, buildings and other facilities and providing adequate staff for the purpose of dealing with Jodhpur Railway's traffic subject to the proviso that the Jodhpur Railway shall be responsible for providing and maintaining all buildings, structures, Rolling Stock, including lighting thereof, permanent way and other works required by them for their exclusive use

(b) The Jodhpur Railway shall make their own arrangements for working and maintaining their own line and other properties which are for their exclusive use at their own expense in such a manner as to be in keeping with the standard of efficiency and appearance of the N W Railway buildings, etc

(c) All electric energy whenever supplied to the Jodhpur Railway for their exclusive use shall be paid for by the Jodhpur Railway at the rates agreed upon between Jodhpur Railway and North Western Railway

(d) Both North Western and Jodhpur Railways will provide a reasonable reserve of coaching and goods stock in order to meet the traffic demands

No Jodhpur Railway wagon or wagons belonging to any Railway working in connection with Jodhpur Railway shall be detained under load beyond 36 hours after arrival at Hyderabad and should any wagon be so detained, it shall be subject to a charge of demurrage at the rate which may be laid down from time to time for interchange of Rolling Stock in accordance with the Conference Regulations. The calculation of penalty charges will commence from the first complete hour after expiry of this period fractions of hours being disregarded

(e) To protect the North Western Railway from risk of loss arising from undue delay on the part of Jodhpur Railway in providing wagons for loading, the Jodhpur Railway shall be liable to a penalty if the demurrage rate which may be laid down from time to time for interchange of Rolling Stock in accordance with Conference Regulations on the stock detained with such goods booked through to stations of the Jodhpur Railway or connected Railways as the Jodhpur Railway may fail to provide wagons for after 36 hours. Notice, such penalty to be leviable up to the time the Jodhpur Railway wagons become available for loading at the transfer platform

The calculation of penalty charges is to be made as in the case of clause 4(d) above

The penalty laid down in this and the preceding clause shall not apply to girders, timber and such heavy and bulky articles as may from time to time be exempted by special agreement between the two Railway Administrations

(f) Both Railways shall make their own arrangements for separate sick lines for damaged stock and reasonable facilities for running repairs including staff and spare parts

(g) The running and inspecting staff of the Jodhpur Railway shall be allowed the free use of running rooms and rest rooms provided for joint use

(h) (i) *Watering, greasing and oiling Rolling Stock*—Each Railway shall make its own arrangements for watering its own engines and also for greasing, oiling, examining and repairing its own engines and stock at the joint station. The Jodhpur Railway shall pay for water consumed for their exclusive use at rates that may be fixed from time to time by the N W Railway

(ii) Each Railway shall provide the material and staff for lighting its own trains

5 Haulage of goods from Jodhpur Railway siding or platform to North Western Railway siding or platform and vice versa

(a) Haulage should be done by the Railway concerned

(b) Hand shunting to be done by the joint staff

(c) The North Western Railway shall book, deliver and deal with all Jodhpur Railway traffic in Hyderabad area

(d) The Jodhpur Railway shall haul their own coaching trains to and from Hyderabad

(e) The Jodhpur Railway staff working trains within the limits of Hyderabad area shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the North Western Railway

(t) The timings of Jodhpur Railway trains running to and from Hyderabad shall be settled by the Jodhpur Railway in consultation with the North Western Railway.

(g) Correspondence including telegrams relating to the joint business of the contracting Railways shall be interchanged free.

6 *Forms and Returns.*—(a) The Jodhpur Railway shall provide all tickets, books, forms and stationery required in connection with booking and delivery of its own local traffic.

(b) The North Western Railway shall keep such books, statements and accounts and furnish such returns on Jodhpur Railway local traffic as they may require. These will be open to inspection by the Jodhpur Railway Officials.

(c) The North Western Railway as the working agency shall provide all platform tickets at its own cost.

7 *Accounts.*—The Jodhpur Railway shall be responsible for checking its own accounts.

8 *Rates and fares.*—The Jodhpur Railway shall quote rates and fares for their own traffic to and from Hyderabad and *via*

9 *Earnings.*—(a) Earnings on Jodhpur Railway local traffic shall be credited to that railway in such manner as that railway may direct.

(b) Wharfage and demurrage charges on Jodhpur Railway local coaching and local goods traffic shall be credited to the Jodhpur Railway.

(c) Siding charges accruing on traffic of North Western or Jodhpur Railways shall be credited to North Western Railway and the Jodhpur Railway respectively.

(d) Telegraph earnings in respect of the local traffic of each Railway shall be credited to the respective Railways.

10 *Compensation claims.* (i) Each Railway shall deal with, dispose of and bear all claims on its local traffic.

(b) Claims in respect of through or interchanged traffic shall be dealt with and adjusted between Railways directly concerned *e.g.*, earning freight when Jodhpur Railway is concerned in the settlement of a claim and decides that the responsibility rests either wholly or in part with the staff of Hyderabad joint station, it will report the case to the North Western Railway who will deal with the staff responsible.

(c) Claims arising —

(i) on traffic interchanged between the North Western Railway and Jodhpur Railway or

(ii) under Conference Rules on traffic interchanged between the North Western Railway and the Jodhpur Railway for misdespatch shall be borne by both Railways in proportion to freight earned from the consignments when the responsibility is fixed on the staff in the Hyderabad joint station.

11 *Miscellaneous items.*—(a) All irrecoverable debts arising on the Jodhpur Railway local traffic shall be borne by that Railway.

(b) Unclaimed goods and parcels received from the Jodhpur Railway shall be disposed of under order of that Railway and the sale proceeds if any will be credited to that Railway.

12 *Accidents.* The Jodhpur Railway shall be responsible for all expenses due to accidents arising from the acts of its staff within the Hyderabad joint station area.

SCHEDULE No II

Remuneration Schedule

1 For the services and facilities afforded in the Hyderabad junction station as detailed below the Jodhpur Railway shall remunerate the North Western Railway by paying half yearly the following lump sum payments —

(a)
(b)

(i) For maintaining all the works in joint use including furniture, tools and plants

(ii) For transhipment of all goods traffic from and to Jodhpur Railway *via* Hyderabad Station

(iii) For supply of platform tickets

(iv) For general services

(v) For cost of North Western Railway staff working in Hyderabad junction station for joint purposes

(vi) For medical attendance including charges incidental thereto on the joint staff

(vii) For stationery and consumable store used by the joint staff including home line freight on stores

(viii) Compensation for accidents damages, losses attributable to joint staff

(ix) Compensation paid to joint staff under W C Act

(x) For cost of Order Police

(xi) Other expenditure that may be ordinarily incurred in working a joint station

Note.—The Jodhpur Railway shall also pay for the following items for which specific provision exists in addition to the lump sum payable to the North Western Railway

- (i) Compensation claims clause 10 schedule 1
- (ii) Expenses arising in connection with accidents (Clause 12 schedule 1)
- (iii) Supply of electric energy [Clause 4(c) schedule 1]
- (iv) Cost of water consumed for the exclusive use of the Jodhpur Railway vide clause 4 (h) (i)
- (v) Penalty charges [Clause 4(d) and (e) schedule 1]

2 Any dispute arising in connection with this agreement shall be referred to the Railway Board

3 The lump sum of Rs _____ per annum payable by the Jodhpur Railway, to the North Western Railway will remain in force for the first five years from 1st October, 1937

It will be liable to revision for the latter five and a half year, viz., from 1st October, 1942, according as the percentage of the expenses to be borne by the North Western Railway on account of its passing traffic determined on the actual figures of passing traffic for the year 1940-41 may vary from 33-1/3 per cent, the percentage adopted on this account while calculating the lump sum of Rs _____ of the first five years

The total working expenses and the proportion in which the same are to be shared between the North Western Railway and the Jodhpur Railway for the latter five and a half years viz., from 1st October 1942, will, however, remain the same as for the first five years from 1st October 1937

General Manager,

North Western Railway, LAHORE

Manager,

Jodhpur Railway, JODHPUR

Dated

Dated

Statement showing the number of tickets issued by all sources from Hyderabad (Sind) for April, 1946 and August 1946

	April, 1946		August, 1946	
	First Class	Second Class	First Class	Second Class
Station	144	1,404	153	1,394½
City Booking Agents	4	192	16	313
Tourist Agents	15	155½	8½	133
Total	163	9,951½	177½	17,401½

DENIAL OF RELIEF OF Rs 4/8/- IN PAY TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES WHO CEASED TO BE IN SERVICE AFTER 1ST JULY, 1945

18. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the relief of Rs 4/8 per mensem has been sanctioned in the pay of Railway employees with retrospective effect from the 1st July, 1945,

(b) whether it is a fact that the employees in service on this date, but not in service on the 1st August, 1946, have been deprived of this increase,

(c) under what specific rule of the Railway Codes this increase in pay has been denied to employees in service during the period to which it refers, and

(d) whether Government propose to issue instructions to give this increased pay to the employees for the months during which they were in service, but who resigned, retired or left service for any reason at any time after 1st July, 1945, if not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) The reply is in the affirmative

(c) The orders regarding the grant of interim relief to non-gazetted railway servants were issued on the 2nd of August, 1946, and, in terms of Rule 2045(2) of the State Railway General Code, have retrospective effect only to the extent provided in the letter itself conveying the sanction. There is no specific rule in the Railway Codes prescribing the conditions under which retrospective effect should be given to a sanction, the matter being within the discretion of the competent authority.

The increase in pay was given on the recommendation of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in order to relieve the staff actually in service of their most pressing financial anxieties to make their continuance in railway employment possible. The relief was given with retrospective effect in order to place a lump sum amount in the hands of the serving employees to meet their immediate needs, pending the enquiry by the Pay Commission. It was, therefore, decided to exclude persons who had left service before the 1st August 1946 from this relief.

(d) In view of my reply to part (c) Government do not propose to modify their instructions.

FIXATION OF PRICE OF WHEAT IN U P

19. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department kindly state if Government intend to continue the Grain Procurement Scheme this year also? If so, what price they propose to fix for wheat in the United Provinces?

(b) Was the price fixed for wheat this year in the United Provinces much less special in the districts having big rationed cities in them?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Assuming that the Honourable Member refers to the U P Grain Procurement Scheme, the answer is that the U P Government intend to continue their Procurement Scheme for the rest of the crop year. The existing statutory maximum of Rs 10/4/- per maund for wheat in the main producing areas will remain in force till the end of the crop year.

(b) No Sir

FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA

20. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) the present food situation in the country,

(b) the supply of foodstuffs expected from other countries, and

(c) the steps Government propose to take or are taking to meet the situation?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member is referred to the Memorandum on Food Situation laid on the table of the House.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

MEMORANDUM ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY UP TO THE 20TH OCTOBER, 1946

A—India and International Food Organisations

The second and third quarters of the year 1946 have seen important developments in the representation of India on international bodies dealing with food, and in her relations with foreign countries from whom India draws or seeks to draw supplies. In this connection, a clear distinction must be drawn between international bodies which deal with the allocation of supplies, such as the Combined Food Board and the International Emergency Food Council, and bodies which deal with the planning of future production and price policy such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation, which recently held an important Conference at Copenhagen.

2 To deal first with international bodies allocating supplies, the body charged with this duty on a world basis at the time when the Indian Delegation visited Washington in March, 1946 was the Combined Food Board. This body was, in effect, nothing more than a war-time co-ordinating body set up to deal with the procurement of supplies needed by the Western Allies under war time conditions. It was not a representative body in a world wide sense, nor had it any executive authority to compel exporting nations to programme supplies according to its recommendations. It had dealt with a war time situation in which the main difficulty in distribution lay, not in procuring supplies of grain but in shipping them. The proceedings of the Combined Food Board assumed a very different complexion in the beginning of 1946, when it became apparent that the expectations formed in the middle of 1945 as to the relation of grain supply to demand in 1946 were totally erroneous and that a serious shortage was unavoidable. India had suffered an almost unprecedented short fall owing to the failure of the rains in the latter part of 1945, and the early part of 1946 but she was not alone in her misfortune, and there was widespread failure of production against estimates and shortage of supplies in many other parts of the world. In such circumstances, the Combined Food Board was quite unable to find sufficient supplies and recommend programmes which would anywhere near satisfy the competing demands of claimants all over the world. It was felt that a more representative and authoritative body must be created to deal with the new situation and accept the responsibility for deciding how the insufficient resources were to be parcelled out. While this was under consideration, India's position was improved to the extent that she was admitted to Membership of the Cereals Committee and of the Rice Committee of the Combined Food Board, and special measures were taken to strengthen the staff of the Agent General in Washington in order to secure that India's case was satisfactorily explained and pressed after the Indian Delegation had left Washington.

3 To replace the Combined Food Board, the nations eventually agreed on the constitution of the International Emergency Food Council. The full Council consists of 24 nations as follows:—

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, India, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Siam, Switzerland, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America.

The Executive Body of the Council is the Central Committee composed of 8 nations as follows:—

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, India, United Kingdom and United States of America.

It will be seen that India is thus much more fully and directly represented in the International Emergency Food Council than she had been with the Combined Food Board. She is, of course, a Member of the Commodity Committees operating under the International Emergency Food Council as she had been under the Combined Food Board. The International Emergency Food Council is still, however, constitutionally a recommendatory Body, and is not in the position that the world's surpluses are placed unreservedly at the Council's disposal to be distributed under its orders.

As the year proceeded it became increasingly evident that in the case of rice the International Emergency Food Council Committee in Washington could not keep in sufficiently close touch with the situation in South East Asia. Estimates of availability of supplies were constantly changing, and allocations made by the International Emergency Food Council bore little quantitative relation to the supplies which could actually be shipped. This situation was to a certain extent mitigated by the presence in Singapore of the Special Commissioner, South East Asia, Lord KILLERIN. He acted as a co-ordinating authority on the spot for South East Asian supplies including supplies to India under International Emergency Food Council allocations. He had requested the appointment of Liaison Officers by the interested Governments, and held a series of special and periodic Conferences in order to secure the best possible programming of supplies with due regard to International Emergency Food Council allocations. The Government of India's regular representative at these meetings was Mr S. K. Chettur, the Representative of India in Malaya, but Conferences were attended from time to time by other Officers including the Food Secretary. It has now been decided to appoint a special Sub-Committee of the International Emergency Food Council at Singapore to advise and assist the Special Commissioner in his task of food co-ordination in South East Asia, and in adjusting the actual supplies available to the changing needs of different areas, with greater degree of speed and accurate knowledge than is possible from Washington. India is, represented on this Sub-Committee at Singapore.

4 To turn to the other type of international organisation dealing with food planning, rather than with the allocation of supplies, the most important event has been the emergence of *World Food Board* proposals put forward by Sir John Boyd Orr, Director General Food and Agriculture Organisation to the recent Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference at Copenhagen. The objectives of the proposed *World Food Board*, as stated to the Copenhagen Conference, are

Firstly, developing and organising production, distribution and utilisation of the basic foods to provide diets on a health standard for the peoples of all countries, and

Secondly, stabilising agricultural prices at levels fair to producers and consumers alike.

An aspect of the proposals of special importance to India is the establishment of Food Reserves adequate for any emergency that might arise due to failure of crops in any part of the world. India was represented at the Copenhagen Conference when it was decided that

a Preparatory Commission should be set up in Washington to examine the *World Food Board* proposals in detail, and attempt to work out a practical plan to achieve the objectives. A Delegation to represent India on this Preparatory Commission has already left for Washington.

5 The attempts which have been made by the Government of India to add to, or supplement supplies under allocation by the International Emergency Food Council, are summarised in the paragraphs dealing with imports, but the following points may be of special interest to Members of the Legislature.

Firstly—The question of obtaining supplies from Russia—which country is not a Member of the International Emergency Food Council—has received special attention. A direct appeal to Russia was made at the United Nations Organisation Conference in London, and enquiries were made subsequently during the year regarding the prospects of grain being available for export from Russia. Only recently, Mr. Krishna Menon, on behalf of Pandit Nehru interviewed Moussem Molotov in Paris to place India's needs before him. Up to the present, the Government of the U S S R has not found it possible to make available any supplies for India.

Secondly—A special Mission was sent to Argentine in order to secure the shipment of supplies of grain which had been purchased there on behalf of the Government of India, but for which export licenses had not been granted. This Mission has been more fortunate, and substantial quantities are now on their way to India.

Thirdly—The offer of exports of paddy for India from Java has been actively followed up, but has encountered a succession of practical difficulties which have not been rendered any easier by the difficult international and political situation which obtained in that country. So far, thirty thousand tons of Indonesian paddy have been shipped to India, and, it is hoped that greatly increased quantities will be forthcoming now that motor transport has been made available to improve movement from the interior to the railheads and to the Ports.

Fourthly—In Siam, India has accepted an invitation to become a Member of the Siam Rice Commission. This is an International Body composed of representatives of His Majesty's Government, the United States, Siam and China in addition to India to stimulate and regulate the export of rice from Siam under the Tripartite Agreement and in accordance with International Emergency Food Council allocations.

Fifthly—An interesting feature has been the visit to India of the unofficial American Famme Mission under the leadership of Dr. Schultz. This Mission was treated by the Government of India as their guests, and given full facilities to visit different parts of the country, and see for itself the supply position, the administrative measures taken to prevent starvation, and the condition of the people. The object in view was to enable the Mission, on its return to America, to report its findings for the information of the American people and the guidance of their Government. The report of the Mission included strong support for the importation of grain into India in the quantities asked for by the Government of India, and a notable tribute to India's internal procurement and distribution system.

B—Crop Prospects

From reports received from various parts of the country, it appears that the all India total output of Kharif crops will be upto average. So far as rice is concerned, Southern India which suffered from unprecedented drought last year is expected to have an average crop, which would mean an increase of 1 million tons over last year in Madras alone. The only Province where the rice crop is reputed to have suffered damage to an appreciable extent is Assam. Rice crops in some districts of Assam have been destroyed by recent floods but the extent of the damage is not yet known. In the Punjab the rice crop has suffered from drought but the loss in yield has to a large extent been offset by the increase in acreage. From Sind, too, reports of drought have been received but the figures of area and yield have not yet been communicated to us by the Sind Government.

Jowar and Bajra crops are also reported to be normal in all parts of the country. In Bihar, the maize crop which was expected to be better than last year has suffered considerable damage by floods in the Ganges.

C—Progress of the Basic Plans

Kharif Plan 1945-46 This Plan attempted the distribution of 8.4 lakh tons of rice, 2.3 lakh tons of millets, and 0.9 lakh tons of maize from surplus to deficit areas. This quantity was, of course, quite inadequate to meet even the original declared deficits. When later the deficits increased considerably due to drought and failure of crops and it was clear that internal surpluses were wholly insufficient to meet the situation, special missions were sent abroad to press for more imports.

As the Plan progressed, even the meagre surpluses previously declared were found to be unavailable either because in some cases the original estimates of the surplus areas were over optimistic or because the crops, both kharif and rabi, suffered damage due to floods and drought. The original combined total movement target was 11.2 lakh tons, the revised one was 9.9 lakh tons. Against this revised target the surplus areas have despatched to the deficit areas upto the 26th September, 1946, 8.97 lakh tons. The following table shows

the upto date quotas of rice and millets from the principal surplus areas and their performance so far —

(In '000 tons)

Name of surplus area	Export quota		Despatches—1st November 1945 to 26th September 1946	
	Rice	Millets	Rice	Millets
Punjab	135	15	122	15
Sind	200		160	
C P & Berar	177		170	
Assam	126		81	
Orissa	100		69	
Eastern States	50		44	
Coorg	13		11	
Hyderabad		98		62
Gwalior		30		24
Punjab States		30		27
Baluchistan	10	10	8	10

The following table shows the quantities of foodgrains supplied to each of the principal deficit areas against the 1945-46 Kharif Plan allocations

(In '000 tons)

Name of deficit area	Despatches—1st November 1945 to 26th September 1946	
	Rice	Millets
Bengal	38	
Bombay	167	91
Madras	252	27
Travancore/Cochin	219	

Rabi Plan 1945-46 — (May 1945—April 1946)

Under this Plan against a total programme of 9.5 lakh tons wheat, a total quantity of 7.6 lakh tons wheat was despatched from the surplus areas. In addition to these supplies a total quantity of 9.2 lakh tons of wheat was received from overseas and distributed to the deficit areas during the currency of the Plan. It may be mentioned in this connection that owing to the difficulties of wheat procurement in the Punjab, the largest surplus Province, resulting largely from the poor prospect of the 1946 wheat crop, there were very small exports of wheat from internal sources during the last four months of the Rabi year 1945-46, i.e., in the period January to April, 1946. The wheat requirements of the deficit areas during this period had therefore to be met almost wholly from overseas arrivals, which amounted to 3.7 lakh tons (from 1st January to 30th April, 1946).

Rabi Plan 1946-47 (May 1946 to April 1947)

The only wheat surpluses that were declared were 40,000 tons by Sind and 30,000 tons by Bahawalpur. In view of this and as the import programme has been uncertain and known only for a few weeks ahead, the Food Department have had to modify the earlier system of 12 monthly Basic Plans, with effect from May last. A system of monthly budgets on the basis of which allocations of available supplies are made has been introduced instead. These

indicate for each deficit area the stock position at the beginning of the month, local procurement within the area, stocks to be moved into the area from surplus areas in India, allocation of imports from abroad, the total resources available for the month and the consumption for the month. Stocks refer to stocks held by Government, and consumption to the offtake of non-producers or partial producers dependent on supplies from Government. On present estimates we expect to enter the month of November with stocks in hand in the principal deficit areas equivalent to a month's offtake from Government sources. The stock in hand at the commencement of December will be less than the equivalent of one month's offtake from Government sources. These working stocks are inadequate to ensure the smooth working of rationing schemes, etc.

For this purpose it is estimated that an immediate allocation of a further 5,15,000 tons of foodgrains for arrival in India before the end of the year will be necessary. The case for these additional imports has already been put to His Majesty's Government and the International Emergency Food Council.

The following table shows the receipts of foodgrains from overseas during the period 1st May 1946 to 30th September 1946 and their distribution among the principal deficit areas. ('000 tons)

Recipients	Rice	Wheat	Flour	Millets	Maize	Barley	Total
Bengal	10	78	20		4		112
Bihar	15	26	2		27	1	71
Bombay	6	36	20	8	24	5	99
Madras	83	119	38	19	57		316
Mysore	14	42	9	9	21		95
Tr. Cochín	45	47	1		3		96
Others		188	30		12		230
Total	173	536	120	36	148	6	1,019

The following two points deserve special mention —

(1) We have received loans from some Provinces and States to help us to tide over a critical period in some of the deficit areas, on a guarantee of replacement, later in the year when they might need it to meet their own requirements.

The quantities so far loaned are —

Punjab	90,000 tons wheat and atta
Sind	60,000 " "
U P	10,000 " "
Bhawalpur	7,000 " "
Jaipur	5,000 " barley

The bulk of these quantities has already been despatched to the deficit areas. Despatches of the balance are progressing satisfactorily. We have started repayment of the Sind loan. The others are repayable from December onwards if repayment is insisted upon.

(2) The seamen's strike in United States of America in September and October 1946, and the delay in arriving at an agreement with the Argentine Government over the issue of export permits for the Government of India's purchases of foodgrains, have very seriously affected the imports in the months of October and November. Special appeals were therefore made in September last to surplus areas in India to come to the rescue of deficit areas in this critical period. As a result of these appeals, the following fresh surpluses of rice, wheat and millets have been offered for export during October and November —

Orissa	20,000 tons rice
Punjab	10,000 tons rice
C P & Berar	10,000 tons rice (in exchange for wheat)
Indore	4,300 tons millets
Khairpur	1,000 tons wheat

Estimates relating to the Kharif surpluses and deficits for the next year commencing from 1st November 1946 are still being collected

D—Imports

Throughout the last three years the Government of India have steadily and continuously pressed upon His Majesty's Government the imperative need and urgency of importing into India substantial quantities of grain from abroad with a view to offset the overall deficiency in foodgrains, to facilitate the procurement of local surpluses to hold and maintain the accepted price policy and to build up an adequate reserve for meeting emergency needs. The import position has been reviewed almost every quarter in close consultation with His Majesty's Government and India's case for imports has been supported by officers of Government during their visit to the United Kingdom and fully explained to some of the experts in Great Britain who had visited this country. The Foodgrains Policy Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1943 recommended that the Government of India should press for current consumption imports of about 1 million tons a year plus 500,000 tons to build up a central foodgrains reserve. The general food situation during the war and particularly the shipping situation was such that despite all our efforts we were unable to obtain the full amount of grain recommended by the Committee. Our imports during the years 1943, 1944 and 1945 were actually as follows —

1943	1944	1945
328,686 tons	649,041 tons	844,235 tons

With these imports, the highest reserve that the Government of India could build at any stage was about 120,000 tons and this too was dissipated in rescue operations for the United Provinces at the end of 1944. The serious situation which developed towards the end of 1945 owing to the failure of the monsoon in the South required special measures. It was obvious that the imports recommended by the Policy Committee were insufficient to meet the situation which had arisen and, therefore, the Government of India decided to send a Food Mission to the Combined Food Board to press their case for increased and accelerated imports. The mission was instructed to demand 2.2 million tons for the first half of the year and 2 million tons for the second half. They returned with a tentative import figure of 1.4 million tons for the first half of the year, with a further allocation to be settled later, for the second half. Shortly after the mission returned to India, however, there was some doubt over the figure communicated to them and the matter was further taken up with His Majesty's Government as a result of which an agreement was arrived at between His Majesty's Government, United States of America and Canada under which shipments of 11,65,000 tons were promised to us during the period May to September, 1946. Between January and May we had received about 5,11,000 tons of grain. The total quantity of foodgrains imported into India during the first half of 1946 amounted to about 682,000 tons.

In addition to pressing our case before the Combined Food Board, the possibility of importing foodgrains from a number of other sources was actually investigated. The results are summarised below —

Egypt—The Indian Government Trade Commissioner, at Cairo purchased 40,700 tons of millets and 7,007 tons of Barley which have been received in India.

Iraq—We have purchased 2,000 tons of millets through a firm established in Iraq and have completed arrangements for a further import of 6,000 tons through the same firm. The Ministry of Food have also promised to give us a share out of the exportable surpluses of barley which they have purchased. This is expected to be about 80,000 tons.

Iran—The Iran Government have promised to issue export licence upto 60,000 tons of barley in favour of India. An officer of the Food Department has been deputed to Iran and Iraq to make the necessary arrangements for purchase.

Burma and Siam—Transport difficulties and slow rehabilitation of the agricultural economy of Burma and Siam are standing in the way of substantial imports from these countries. The Government of India have assisted both Burma and Siam with transport and consumer goods and have given a special quota of textiles to Siam with a view to facilitating the procurement of rice. An officer of the Food Department has been lent to Siam as the head of the Siam Rice Unit which advises on purchases of rice in that country. In spite of all efforts hitherto made however the position of supplies from Siam continues to remain extremely unsatisfactory.

Indonesia—An officer of the Government of India was deputed to pursue the offer of 500,000 tons of rice made by the Indonesian Premier. About 6,000 tons of paddy has so far been received and about 24,000 tons is on the way from Indonesia. There have been many difficulties in the way of accelerating supplies and an officer of the Government of India is even now in Java to assist in removing the difficulties. Another officer, with suitable staff is in Java to supervise loading of ships at various ports. Lighters and transport have been made available to the Indonesians in addition to consumer goods to facilitate the flow of rice.

Argentina—Purchases of maize and millets amounting to over 300,000 tons had been effected through the Indian Government Trade Commissioner and Commercial Agents. A mission headed by Dewan Chaman Lal was sent to Argentina to explore the possibility of further purchases and expedite the issue of export permits for quantities already purchased. The mission has successfully concluded an agreement with the Argentine Government under which export permits which had previously been withheld are now being issued. Considerable quantities of Argentine grain have already arrived in this country and more is on its way.

Turkey.—We expect to get 80,000 tons of barley and 20 000 tons of wheat from purchases made by His Majesty's Government in Turkey

Abyssinia.—We have appointed a purchasing agent in Abyssinia and 1,500 tons of Jowazees has already been received through this agency. A further 500 tons is expected to arrive shortly

East Africa.—Trade offers of foodgrains from British and Portuguese East Africa are being investigated

2 *Subsidisation of foodgrains.*—The landed cost of some of the imported foodgrains is higher than the price levels prevailing in various parts of the country. In order not to disturb the present price structure in the different provinces which is the result of strenuous efforts during the last years and to protect the consumer against further increases in prices. The Government of India have decided to subsidise the sale of imported foodgrains to the extent necessary. The extent of the subsidy during 1946 would amount to Rs 15½ crores

The attached table shows the details of foodgrains received in India in 1946, month by month upto the end of September 1946 distinguished by sources and grains

Imported food grains—Arrivals during 1946

A Foodgrains other than rice

(i) Arrivals against shipments made in 1945

	From	Tons
January, 1946	U S A	29 78 wheat
	Canada	50,433 „
	Total	80,211 „
February	U. S. A	22,246 „
	Canada	48,346 „
	Total	70 592 „

(ii) Arrivals against 1946 shipments

February	U S A	15,015 wheat
	Canada	24,195 „
	Total	39,210 „
March	U S A	27,881 „
	Canada	4,443 „
	Australia	36,091 „
	Total	68,415 „
April	U S A	29,706 wheat
	Canada	7,500 „
	Australia	62,182 „
	Australia	12,808 Wheat equivalent of 9,350 tons of flour at 73 % extraction basis
	Total	112,196
May	Australia	62,189 wheat
	Australia	42,470 wheat equivalent of 31,003 tons of flour
	U S A	26,164 wheat
	Canada	3,500 „
	U K	5,500 wheat equivalent of 4,000 tons of flour.
	Total	139,823
June	Australia	52,398 wheat
	Australia	15,895 wheat equivalent of 11,603 tons flour
	Canada	39,314 wheat
	Total	107,607

	From	Tons	
July	Australia	48,471	wheat
	Australia	45,478	wheat equivalent of 33,199 tons of flour
	Canada	53,212	wheat
	U S A	33,879	"
	U S A	76,979	maize
	Total	258,019	
August	Australia	52,931	wheat
	Australia	19,245	wheat equivalent of 14,041 tons of flour
	Australia	1,050	Barley
	Canada	9,308	wheat
	U S A	43,105	"
	U S A	8,913	maize
	Argentina	25,301	"
	Burma	2,730	"
	Iraq	170	millet
	Egypt	19,625	"
	Total	182,378	
September	Australia	43,836	wheat
	Australia	35,764	wheat equivalent of 23,104 tons of flour
	Australia	200	millet
	U. S A	67,581	wheat
	U S A	5,100	maize
	U. S A	7,625	milo
	Burma	2,300	maize
	Argentina	26,182	maize
	Egypt	4,709	barley
	Egypt	14,644	millet
	Abbyssinia	1,421	"
	Total	209,362	

B. Rice

(i) Arrivals against 1945 programme

	From	Tons
January		29,368

(ii) Arrivals against 1946 programme

May	Burma	9,381	
June	Burma	24,377	
July	Burma	37,110	
	Siam	8,700	
	Saigon	3,890	
	Total	49,700	
August	Burma	22,908	
	Brazil	9,500	
	Total	32,408	
September	Burma	54,248	
	Java	4,000	Rice equivalent of 6,019 tons of Paddy.
	Total	58,248	

E—Procurement

Since 1943 many Provinces and States have made considerable progress towards a policy of Government monopoly procurement of foodgrains. In 1944, a detailed examination of the principal schemes operating at the time was undertaken by an officer of the Food Department whose report warranted the conclusion that monopoly procurement had justified itself in practice and should continue to be the goal towards which the development of all procurement systems should proceed. The 5th All India Food Conference held on 29th January to 2nd February 1945 also recommended that the results obtained in the working of monopoly procurement system justified their further study and their development in each Province and State, so far as circumstances permitted. The system of monopoly procurement has now been adopted by most of the Provinces and States and the particular systems obtaining in various provinces are briefly described in Annexure 'A' attached to this memorandum.

F—Storage

Apart from godowns built by the Central Government at their own cost and on 50-50 basis, described in the report circulated at the beginning of the last session, the Provincial Governments and private enterprise have been encouraged to build further storage accommodation at their own cost. A statement showing the storage accommodation at present held by the Provincial Governments and States or covered by the schemes in hand is given below.

(Figures in tons)

Situation	Existing storage		Proposed constructions	Total
	Govt owned	Leased		
Provinces	1,327,361	6,548,912	365,386	8,241,659
Administrations	54,633	13,900	44,800	113,333
States	1,170,382	1,501,969	38,220	2,710,571
Total	2,552,376	8,064,781	448,406	11,065,563

The Punjab Government are building a chain of bulk bins spread over 40 important stations and having an aggregate capacity of about 70,000 tons. These bins are expected to be fitted with mechanical lifting tackle and when completed they should play an important role in handling the surplus wheat of those districts.

2 *Co-ordination*—Under the stress of emergency conditions which prevailed in the earlier stages, the original constructions were mostly in the nature of *ad hoc* schemes. The position is now being reviewed with a view to evolve a more co-ordinated and well-balanced development of storage in the country. The new constructions are being so designed and located as to ensure that they will continue to be used for storage of foodgrains even after the controls are withdrawn.

At the instance of the Food Department the Punjab Government have passed a legislation to provide that only merchants who are in possession of approved warehouses should be granted licences for dealing in foodgrains. Other Provinces have been requested to adopt similar measures.

The Reserve Bank of India have sponsored a scheme for establishing licensed warehouses. The N. W. F. P. and Travancore State have already initiated legislation in this direction. By means of these warehouses it is proposed to co-ordinate the storage policy with the welfare of farmers linking it with the problem of transport of agricultural produce and rural credit.

3 The third annual course for the training of the Provincial and States' staff engaged in the work of storage was held in the third week of October 1946 and was attended by 144 delegates. In addition to the courses in Delhi it is now proposed to hold regional courses to train local personnel with particular reference to local conditions.

4 *Experimental work*—Experiments are being carried out in the Food Department on disinfectants. It has been found that Gammaxene smoke can disinfect godowns and Gammaxene dust on floors and walls of godowns kills insects. These methods have been recommended to Provinces and States.

Ethylene Dichloride Carbon Tetrachloride has also been found to be a very effective fumigant for disinfection of grain and has been recommended for adoption. Experiments have successfully been made to fumigate grain even under tarpaulins. This method of fumigation will go a long way in controlling infestation as it can be conveniently carried out everywhere as against the restricted use of fumigants in air tight godowns.

For rat control, apart from rat-proofing the godowns, poison baiting by Zinc Phosphide and cyanogassing rat-burrows are the methods adopted.

The Food Department has made arrangements for the supply of sufficient quantities of these insecticides and fumigants.

Advantage is also being taken of the already established scientific institutions to carry out research on problems concerning stored grains. The Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore has undertaken experiments on heat treatment of grain for reducing its moisture content. Another scheme has been sanctioned to study the development of mould, fungi, etc. Collaboration with other scientists is being secured. Universities have also been approached to give a proper place to the study of grain storage in the curriculum of Agricultural Colleges.

G—Price Control

(i) *Rabi Prices*.—In April 1946 the Government of India after considering the views of the Governments of the main wheat producing areas and the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee decided that there should be no change during the Rabi crop year 1946-47 in the existing statutory maximum prices of wheat, gram or barley. It was also decided that there should be no change during the next 12 months in the guaranteed minimum price of Rs 7-8-0 for fair average quality wheat.

(ii) *Kharif Prices*.—The question of fixation of the Kharif grain prices for 1946-47 is under consideration.

(iii) *Pulses Prices*.—The Government of India have decided that prices of pulses should be controlled in the various Provinces and States. For this purpose the Provinces and States have been classified as (i) Deficit, (ii) Self-sufficient, and (iii) Surplus. For deficit areas the adoption of the weighted average purchase price plus average cost of transport plus handling and other incidental charges has been suggested and such Provinces and States have been asked to notify such a pool price as the statutory maximum price. In surplus and self-sufficient areas, the Government of India have agreed to the adoption for the time being of the prices prevailing in July as the statutory maximum prices in order to guard against the risk of stocks going underground.

H—Rationing

1 *Extension of Rationing*.—The food crisis since the end of 1945 has led to further and very rapid extension of rationing in the country especially in the semi-urban and rural areas. 215 more towns and rural areas representing a population of over 97 millions have been rationed since January 1946. In all, 771 towns and rural areas covering a population of over 150 million persons have been rationed up to the beginning of October 1946. 420 more towns covering a population of 55 million in the urban and rural areas are expected to be rationed shortly.

2 *Nutrition*.—In most of the Provinces and States, expert nutrition officers have been appointed for nutritional work. The available protective foods, especially milk, are being distributed to vulnerable groups, namely expectant and nursing mothers and children in preference to other groups. Such priority schemes are functioning in Bombay City, Madras, Travancore State, Cochin State and Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

School feeding schemes are being extended and are now in operation in Bombay, Madras, Punjab (Simla) U. P., Orissa, Bihar (B. I. Railway), C. P. and Berar, Rampur State, Mysore State, Bangalore Civil and Military Station, Cochin State, Travancore State and Hyderabad State.

3 *Publicity*.—The demand for the Food Department's two publications "Nutrition" and "Canteens in Industry" has increased and the number of copies now being published has reached 10,000 monthly in the case of "Nutrition" and 6,000 quarterly in the case of "Canteens in Industry". Extracts from these publications are being translated into local languages by some of the Provinces and States. The two Nutrition Exhibitions held in Delhi during the last year to stimulate popular interest in dietetics attracted a large number of visitors and were very successful.

I—Sugar and Salt

1 *Sugar*.—The production of sugar this year did not come up to the original estimate of 11,14,000 tons—the actual production being only 9,48,000 tons. The result was that a 13 per cent cut had to be applied to the quotas allotted to the Provinces and States at the beginning of the season for civilian consumption. A cut of 10 per cent was also effected in the quotas allowed for export to some of the Middle East and neighbouring countries while in the case of Iran no exports were allowed. The total quantity for export was after the cut 14,573 tons.

To enable the factories to pay higher wages to labourers and to meet the cost of replacements and renewals of plants the ex-factory price of D 24 quality sugar was raised by 6 annas with effect from 5th March 1946.

At the instance of the U. P. Government the price of khandasari sugar was decontrolled. The inter-provincial movement was, however, subject to the issue of permits by the Sugar Controller for India. This did not have the desired effect and the price of khandasari went up very high. As this would have adversely affected the production of factory sugar during 1946-47 season it has been decided to bring this sugar again under control.

For 1946-47 the Governments of U P and Bihar on the advice of their Joint Control Board suggested higher cane prices than in the previous year. There were similar demands from Punjab and Frontier also. This advice was endorsed by the Sugar Control Advisory Committee. Government of India after carefully considering the whole problem decided to accept the above recommendations and raise the sugar price to Rs 20.14 ex-factory for all-India, except Punjab and Frontier where the price will be Rs 24. An Ordinance has been issued to realise the difference between the old and the new price in the form of a special excise duty on the existing stocks.

The Government of India have taken decisions in regard to the two of the major recommendations of Sugar Panel, viz. (i) the target of sugar production and (ii) the establishment of two additional units and their location to meet the increased target. The requirements of sugar during the first five years of the post-war period have been estimated at 18,50,000 tons. The normal production capacity of the existing units is 10,84,000 tons and it is proposed to cover the gap by —

- (a) expansion of existing uneconomic unit,
- (b) installation of new units,
- (c) development of sugarcane — construction of roads in existing factory areas shifting certain units to more suitable sites, etc., and
- (d) khandsani sugar.

2 *Gur*—In case of gur also the estimated surplus did not materialize. The result was that the price of this commodity showed a sharp rise in most deficit areas.

In view of the short production of gur, the Provincial and State Governments were requested to prohibit the utilization of gur for distillation purposes. Almost all the Provinces and States have agreed to this suggestion.

3 *Salt*—The position has been satisfactory regarding supply of this commodity all over India.

J—Oilseeds and Oils

The question of a co-ordinated all-India control over oilseeds and oils has been engaging the attention of Government of India for some time. Various attempts were made to evolve a common policy but the failure of certain Administrations to fall into line made implementation of an all-India policy difficult. The whole question was reviewed at a Conference at the end of September of representatives of Provinces and States which recommended after prolonged discussions a uniform all-India policy of control over prices and movement of oilseeds and oils. This recommendation has been carefully examined by the Government of India and accepted as a basis of future policy.

K—Army Demands and Processed Food Stuff

During the last few months the purchases for the Army have been drastically reduced in respect both of quantity and variety of items required. The important reductions are —

	Tons
Atta	54,435
Dhalls	7,691
Ghee	3,845
Vegetable Product and Hydrogenated cooking oil	6,484

These reductions have proportionately relieved the pressure of Army demands on the available foodstuffs of the country.

The production of processed foodstuffs for the Army which had been undertaken by the Food Department has come to an end. There has been no dehydration of vegetable for the Armed Forces, but the 3 Government-owned dehydration factories in the U P were employed to produce 340 tons of dehydrated potatoes for supply to scarcity areas in the country. Dehydration of meat continued up to the end of April since when the nine factories have closed and are being reported for disposal. The Fruit Canning Factory at Nasarpur on a lease which expires at the end of this year will be transferred to the Agriculture Department for training students and arranging advanced courses in fruit and vegetable preservation. It is intended that the factory which is situated in a fruit producing region will pay for itself and will be a model in respect of fruit preservation. The Fruit Processing Factory at Peshawar has been handed over to the N W F P Government according to the terms of their contract with the Central Government. The drying which is less economic and unhygienic. Ghee Heating Centres have been reduced from 6 to 2 and flour mills from 9 to 2. The industrial capacity which has been given up represents corresponding saving for the civil market. Privately-owned factories which were started or extended to meet the Defence demand are being assisted to the extent possible to turn over to the civil market. To the extent they can meet the specifications these factories. The demand from the civil market is also being assured to them by limiting the competition of foreign imports. Some of the industries have already applied to the Tariff Board for protection while others are for the time being protected under the Import Control Regulations.

Technical Panel

The Technical Panel met twice during the year and made various recommendations. The following schemes of research which were recommended by the Panel were sanctioned by the Food Department —

- (A) The erection of a pilot plant for the preparation of soyabean milk
- (B) Construction of a plant for heat treatment of grains
- (C) Improvement in the quality of foreign liquors produced in India
- (D) Studies in the use of seed cakes as human food

In addition a Rice Technological Committee has been set up by the Panel to consider problems in connection with the processing of rice including methods of conservation.

Considerable research work has been done in the laboratory attached to the Food Department which has recently been provided with a Cold Storage Plant. This research includes

- (i) Determination of the moisture limits of dried fruits
- (ii) Storage tests of dehydrated meat, fish, onion and potatoe
- (iii) Conversion of groundnut, mustard and sesame cakes for human food
- (iv) Standardisation of Vanaspathi
- (v) Different culinary uses of dehydrated potatoes
- (vi) Uses of groundnut flour for making chapatti, biscuits, etc.
- (vii) Fortification of Atta with Calcium carbonate
- (viii) Suitability of soyabean products as substitute for milk
- (ix) Analysis of American surplus foods in respect of their storage life

In order to place research in respect of extending and improving food resources on an organised basis the Food Department has supported the proposal of the late P & D Department for the establishment of a Food Technological Institute at a capital cost of Rupees 15 lakhs and a recurring cost of about 4 lakhs. A similar proposal for setting up a Food Advisory Unit at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore at an annual cost of about Rs. 20,000 is being considered in consultation with the administrations which support this Institute.

Food Industries

The Food Department has also undertaken the planning and development of about forty food industries. Factual information obtained by questionnaires issued to provinces and industries is now ready to be placed before the five Panels for groups of allied industries. The personnel of the Panels has been approved and it is expected that they will meet in the near future. Such plans as the Panels may recommend will be considered by Government to determine the control, encouragement, and help which different industries may require. The plans will also be published for the benefit of the investing public, which is now generally without information about the potentials of different industries and the cost of setting them up.

An Information Bureau is also being set up to provide industries with information about availability and cost of manufacturing equipment. In this connection much literature is being received from United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. His Majesty's Senior Trade Commissioner in India has been interesting himself in this work and has referred the various firms of manufacturers to the Food Department. The information received is being catalogued. It is also intended that it should be summarised and issued in booklet form for the information of the public.

The Food Department has itself been progressing industries. First in importance is the Vanaspathi Industry. 18 factories in British India and 11 in Indian States, comprehended in the short term plan are being assisted to set up plant from abroad and controlled material in India. It is expected that 14 of these factories will be in production before the end of 1947. It has been decided that until the results of this expansion are known no further assistance or encouragement may be given for new factories. It is proposed to control this industry from the Centre. This would incidentally enable uniformity in the quality of Vanaspathi which is very necessary in an article which imitates ghee and therefore must be clearly distinguished from it. The control over quality will also make it possible to fortify vanaspathi in order to make it a more wholesome food. The Food Department has also been progressing the project for the establishment of a Food Yeast Factory to produce 3,000 tons. The expert's report on the project was brought to the notice of Provincial Governments and industrialists. So far Provincial Governments and States have indicated that they would have an annual demand for about 1,500 tons of food yeast at a stated price of about 0.60 a lb. It is being considered whether the factory should be set up by Government or by a private firm which has agreed to produce and distribute the product according to directions of Government Food Yeast, which is produced from molasses, has been found by tests conducted recently by the Food Department in schools and by the Army in their messes to be a valuable addition to the general diet.

Disposals

The Food Department is responsible for disposal of all surplus foods. The surpluses with the Quarter Master General are not considerable but those of the U S A Army were about 55,000 tons. These were declared to the Food Department at the beginning of May 1946 since when an active programme of disposal has enabled the sale of about 20,000 tons valued at about Rs. 25 lakhs. This represents a welcome addition to the food resources at a time of general shortage and austerity. Another 35,000 tons valued at about Rs. 450 lakhs still remain for disposal.

The procedure for disposal took account of requirements for famine relief for which suitable stocks with the necessary storage life were reserved. For the balance prices were fixed in consultation with the trade which were actually tested by allowing open tenders from the trade. The quantities not disposed by the tenders are being gradually sold at fixed prices. The less popular items were also offered for export, but were not taken up by the trade. Considering that there were nearly 1,000 items, many unknown before in the country and all extremely perishable the disposal so far both in respect of prices and quantities has been very satisfactory. The sales made, however, have not been followed by deliveries in view of the disturbed conditions in Calcutta where the stocks are lying.

ANNEXURE A

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD*Procurement arrangement in various Provinces*

Lacub. The Punjab Government have now introduced a system of monopoly procurement of wheat. The essential features of the scheme are as follows—

(i) Operations relating to purchase of wheat in nearly 500 mounds of the Province will be completely controlled by Government. All the pucca Aityas of a mound or such of them who are willing to join, will be constituted into a Pucca Aityas Association, and while the producers will be free to choose their Kichhra Aityas the purchases will only be made by this Association.

(ii) All wheat purchased by the Aityas Association will be disposed of only under the orders of Government.

(iii) The purchases will be made at a price fixed for each mound subject to quality allowances, except that in villages within 5 miles of the mound this price will be 4 muns less and for those more than 5 miles away 6 muns less. This should have the effect of encouraging movement towards the mounds.

(iv) The Aityas Association will get a commission of Rs. 12 per Rs. 100 of the value of grain and gunny bags supplied.

(v) Sale of wheat by growers in villages except for the requirements of the village, or to a consumer in a neighbouring village up to 20 seers at a time is prohibited.

(vi) Movement of wheat by rail and road is prohibited except between village and market or under Government permit to the market to the recipient areas.

The Punjab Government have also recently introduced a system of monopoly procurement of rice in the rice producing areas of the province. These have been called controlled areas. The essential features of the scheme are as follows—

(i) The mill will be the centre of procurement operations as all rice (except for small quantities of hand-pounded rice for domestic consumption) must inevitably pass through a mill. All rice produced at a mill will be disposed of only under the orders of Government.

(ii) Minimum prices have been fixed for all varieties of paddy in the controlled areas and for the sale to the producers.

(iii) Maximum prices of the milled rice have been fixed for both the controlled and the non-controlled areas.

(iv) Maximum ex-mill prices of various varieties of rice have also been fixed.

(v) The movement of rice and paddy in and from control areas will be controlled generally as in the case of wheat.

2. N. W. F. P.—Till recently procurement was done through private trade under Government supervision and the requirements of deficit districts were supplied from surplus districts through normal trade channels. In 1945 a Wheat Procurement Order was promulgated which prohibited the sale or transfer of wheat by one person to another without authority from the Provincial Government transactions of less than 20 maunds with the grower direct being excepted. For the current Rabi crop the N. W. F. P. Government have imposed a compulsory levy on holdings of 50 acres or more. The assessment on unirrigated land is at a flat rate of two maunds per acre. A higher assessment is to be made on irrigated land.

3 *Sind*—With effect from the 15th May, 1946, the Sind Government have promulgated an order called the "The Wheat and Gram Procurement Order" under which a Purchasing Officer may order that a wholesale dealer in any area shall not, except to the extent permitted by that Officer, sell wheat or gram to any person other than a Government Agent. The Order further prohibits the retailers in non-rationed areas from selling wheat or gram in any transaction to any person in a quantity exceeding 20 seer at a time.

The system of procurement of rice has recently been changed under the Sind Rice Procurement Order (1946), rice mills cannot dispose of the rice produced by them except in accordance with the directions issued by authorised Government Officers. Movement by rail or river is controlled.

4 *United Provinces*—Till lately, the system of procurement was dependent on purchase of grain coming to the markets. From the current year a direct procurement scheme for Rabi has been introduced. Small producers whose output of Rabi crops is less than 10 mounds or whose total annual production is less than 20 mounds have been exempted. The Provincial Government's target has been distributed among the surplus districts according to the surplus estimated to be available in each. The district demand is then broken up among homogeneous tracts and within these tracts individual assessments are made after taking into consideration the average production per acre in the tract. Committees of people's representatives are to be closely associated with procurement at every stage.

5 *Bihar*—Purchases (subject to the limits of approved prices) are made by Government officers through accredited Agents chosen from the trade. In addition, a compulsory levy on paddy has recently been imposed which prohibits a producer holding 100 acres or more from disposing of any paddy exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ of his total produce. Individual assessments are made. Government may not, however, demand more than half the total produce if it is less than 1,000 mounds and more than $\frac{1}{3}$ ths of the total produce in any case. The Bihar Levy Order has since been extended to wheat.

6 *Bengal*—Purchases are made direct by Government Officers in certain districts and through Trade Agents called Chief Purchasing Agents in others. All rice mills producing more than 50 mounds rice daily are required to sell their produce to Government. Rice and paddy can move only on Government account by rail or river. The Provincial Government have recently resorted also to requisitionings of stocks with the larger holders at their discretion.

7 *Assam*—Purchases in the Surma Valley are made direct by Government Officers on a tender system. The single trade agency which used to operate in the Assam Valley has since been replaced by an official procurement machinery.

8 *Orissa*—Purchases are made direct from the producers and also in the open market through a number of agents in each of the six districts of the Province. Purchase or sale of rice on private account in quantities exceeding 10 mounds and stocking of more than 100 mounds by anyone having Government Agents is prohibited. Government have fixed prices for rice and paddy payable to producers.

9 *Madhya*—A Scheme of extensive procurement in respect of rice, paddy, millets and other allied foodgrains is in force in the entire province. Under this scheme the entire surplus of the cultivator is acquired by Government through their Trade Agents after allowing for his annual domestic and seed requirements and for meeting labour and other customary charges in kind. The Provincial Government have formed village taluqa and town committees to assist in the procurement and distribution operations.

In the Malabar District the trade has been completely eliminated and the work of procurement and distribution has been handed over to the Co-operative Societies.

10 *Central Provinces*—Government are the sole buyers of foodgrains brought to the markets. In the case of Towns there is a form of non-Statutory levy under which the producer is expected to contribute a specific portion of his crop to Government. In the case of wheat a compulsory levy first introduced in 1944 and not continued in 1945, has been reintroduced this year in all the districts of the Jabalpur Division. The levy is applicable to holdings of 10 acres or more.

11 *Bombay*—There is a compulsory levy on a graded scale with a minimum exemption limit of 2½ mounds per producer which is allowed for domestic and seed requirements for the year. Government are the sole buyers of other surpluses.

12 *Baluchistan*—There is monopoly purchase by Government.

REMOVAL OF CONTROLS

21. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pahlwal: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the steps Government propose to take to remove the various controls? When, and on which articles the control is to be removed?

The Honourable Sri C. Rameswalarachari: Government is earnestly considering the problem. Nothing more definite can be stated at this stage. Statutory Powers of control have to be maintained whatever the actual decisions may ultimately be in regard to various items.

PAYMENT OF SALARIES, ETC., TO WORKERS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS
DEPARTMENT FOR THE STRIKE PERIOD

22. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state

(a) whether Government intend paying to the workers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who were on strike in July 1946, the salaries and allowances due to them for the strike period, if so, when, if not, why not,

(b) whether Government are aware that an assurance to that effect, explicit or by implication, was given to the strikers by the Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and

(c) whether Government propose to honour that assurance?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) No. The period of absence will be treated as leave without pay. The strikers will, however, receive for that period such allowances as they are entitled to under the rules applicable to employees on leave without pay.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

REMOVAL OF CONTROLS ON COMMODITIES OTHER THAN FOODSTUFFS AND PROMOTION OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

23. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please refer to his speech before the Oil Seeds Conference on September 26, 1946, and state

(a) whether he made a categorical statement that he was for the abolition of controls over distribution of commodities other than foodstuff, retaining price control;

(b) whether what he stated is the policy of Government,

(c) if it is not the policy of Government, what steps does he propose to take to remove the misunderstanding in the public mind,

(d) whether, in view of the experience during the earlier years of war of futility of making price control effective without control over supplies, Government are aware that this new policy will adversely affect the availability of essential commodities to the public, and

(e) whether as an alternative to unlicensed distribution through normal trade channels he would consider the promotion of co-operative societies as a means of ensuring supplies of essential commodities?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b) The Member for Industries and Supplies expressly made it clear that he was not stating the considered policy of Government to be in favour of de-control as described in the question, but was taking the opportunity of the Conference to encourage thinking on the subject.

(c) No misunderstanding exists in the public mind as all the newspaper comments on the subject show and therefore no question arises as to steps to remove misunderstanding.

(d) and (e) The problems involved are being examined in all aspects and the valuable suggestion in clause (e) of the question will also be taken into consideration.

CULTIVATION OF LAND NEAR SECRETARIAT AND WAR MEMORIAL ARCH,
NEW DELHI

24. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the number of acres that were brought under cultivation on either side of Kingsway between the Secretariat buildings and the War Memorial Arch in New Delhi since the last session of the Assembly;

- (b) the amounts and sorts of grains that were produced,
- (c) what was done to them; and if sold, the amount of money realised, and
- (d) the amount of expenditure incurred in the undertaking?

Sir Phetose Kharegat: (a) 55 acres were ploughed up, trenched, manured and prepared for cultivation. Due, however, to acute shortage of labour and water, only 25.3 acres were actually cultivated, 14.3 acres being put under maize and 11 acres under vegetables.

(b) 11½ maunds of summer vegetables. The yield of maize is not known as the standing crop was sold.

(c) The crops were sold. The total amount realised up to date is Rs 3,720/14/3. Maize was auctioned as a standing crop for Rs 3,100. The vegetables were sold at site daily to the public up to the 7th June 1946. Thereafter, as the vegetables did not find a good sale at the spot, they were sent to the market for public auction through a commission agent. The income from this source is Rs 620/14/3. An additional income of Rs 56 is expected from the sale of Arvi which will be harvested in about a fortnight.

(d) The total amount of expenditure incurred is Rs 10,173. This includes Rs 3,000 for fencing and Rs 4,815 for preparing 29.7 acres of land which were not brought under cultivation. The expenditure for the 25.3 acres actually brought under cultivation is Rs 2,358.

COMPULSORY PROCURATION OF GRAIN FROM PEASANTS IN UNITED PROVINCES DURING 1945-46

25. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) the amount of grain that was compulsorily procured by the Government of the United Provinces from the peasants in the Province during the financial year 1945-46,

(b) the manner in which the same was disbursed,

(c) the amount that was destroyed and the causes of this destruction, and

(d) the amount of profit that the Government of the United Provinces made in this transaction?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) There was no compulsory grain procurement in the U P during the financial year 1945-46.

(b), (c) and (d) Do not arise.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS AND ENQUIRIES DURING THE YEAR

26. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state

(a) the number of major Railway accidents that have occurred since the beginning of the present financial year and the nature of the enquiries that have been instituted in each case,

(b) the results of such enquiries, and

(c) the steps that have been taken for the prevention of further accidents of this nature?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) 14 major accidents, in which passenger carrying trains were involved, occurred on all the Indian Railways during the period from 1st April, 1946, to the beginning of October, 1946. Enquiries into all such accidents by the Government Inspectors of Railways were obligatory. These were independent of the railway and magisterial enquiries.

(b) and (c) Seven of the 14 accidents occurred in the latter part of the year and their reports are not yet ready. I place on the table of the House statement showing the results of the enquiries completed and steps taken for the prevention of further accidents of the nature investigated.

Statement.

The causes of the accidents into which the Inspector's enquiries are completed

(1) Failure by the railway staff to observe rules framed for the safe working of the railways—4

(East Indian Railway 2, N W R 1 and O T Railway 1)

(2) Defective track—1 (N W R)

(3) Accident fire—1 (G I P Railway)

(4) Sabotage—1 (B B & C I)

(2) Steps taken to prevent further accidents

The Railway Inspectorate makes recommendations intended to prevent a recurrence of similar accidents, to the Railway Department who give effect to these if they are in agreement with them. Following recommendations were made in connection with the seven accidents of which the Reports have been received from the Government Inspectors—

(i) Adoption of "System of Automatic Train Stops" on Indian Railways. The Railway Board have already appointed an *ad hoc* Committee to enquire into the various system and to recommend the one suitable to the Indian Railways. This Committee has already submitted an interim report about the middle of September, 1946

(ii) Adoption of electrical warning devices to the gatemen and protecting the level crossing with signals

(iii) Adoption of certain measures to prevent bucking of track

(iv) Fitting passenger locomotives with spark arrestors, where possible use of A grade Bengal coal for passenger trains use of non inflammable material for cushions, etc., and provision of ash-trays in upper class compartments

(v) Patrolling of the railway line which, in the opinion of the civil authorities and the Police, are likely to be tampered with

REFURNISHING OF COMPARTMENTS ON RAILWAY TRAINS

27. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the unsatisfactory condition of all classes of compartments in Railways,

(b) what steps, if any are being taken to repair and re-furnish them and to put back all the fittings in the matter of lights, fans, pegs, racks, etc., that have been destroyed or stolen, and

(c) by what time he expects the Railway compartments will again be in their normal condition?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes Government have received complaints from time to time about the unsatisfactory internal condition of some of the passenger stock

(b) Every effort is made by railways to ensure that stock is maintained fully equipped but the supply of fittings cannot be considered normal and railway workshops are and will continue to be for sometime, occupied with repairs to their maximum capacity

(c) The intensity of use to which the present stock is subjected is consequent, to some degree, on the withdrawal for use by the Military Department, of a considerable number of vehicles. As releases are effected by that Department, it will enable more thorough repairs to be undertaken to vehicles now in service for the travelling public

RENOVATION OF DUFFRIN RAILWAY BRIDGE AT BENARES

28 *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) the progress that has so far been made in the renovation of the Duffrin Bridge at Benares,

(b) the approximate date by which he expects the bridge to be ready and an approximate estimate of the total cost,

(c) the arrangements made or intended to be made for the passage of vehicles and pedestrians across the river Ganga when the Pontoon Bridge is not working due to monsoons, and

(d) whether Government are aware of the great discomfort felt during the recent months when all pedestrian and vehicular traffic over the bridge had been suspended and adequate arrangements were not made for their passage in any other way, if so, what steps he intends to take to obviate such difficulties in the future?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The first main span has been launched together with three of the secondary spans. The second main span is on the launching ways. The progress to date could be assessed at 20 per cent of the total.

(b) The work is expected to be completed by February, 1949. The total cost of regendering is expected to be about Rs 83 lakhs.

(c) A steam ferry under the control of the U.P. Government operates from 16th June to 14th December when the pontoon bridge is removed. Government's information is that all traffic wheeled and pedestrian—is handled without undue delay by the ferry service.

(d) The attention of Government has been called from time to time to the inconvenience caused by the above arrangement. It is understood, however, that the arrangements now made are adequate.

EFFECT OF COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN BENGAL ON RAILWAY ACTIVITIES

29. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honorable the Railway Member be pleased to make a short statement, indicating how the activities of the Railways were affected on and from the 16th August, 1946, as a result of communal disturbances in some areas of Bengal?

(b) Has any property belonging to the Railway Department or any article handled by it been damaged or lost anywhere in Bengal as a result of communal disturbances since the 16th August last? If so, what is the nature and extent of such damage or loss? Has there been any casualty among the employees of the Railway Department, or among Railway passengers while travelling, or while within the limits of Railway lands, in any part of Bengal as a result of the said communal disturbances?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) On the B.A. Railway, in the Calcutta Area, passenger as well as goods train services were seriously affected. The supply of foodstuffs, vegetables, etc., was practically at a standstill from the 16th to the 20th August 1946. Work in the B.A. Railway Administrative Offices also suffered seriously, as the staff could not attend office owing to lack of convenience and the fear of being assaulted. In the Chittagong Area, a number of trains had to be cancelled on the 16th August. On the 17th August, there were several casualties amongst the staff in Chittagong. On the 29th August, Fozdarhat Station was attacked by a mob who looted the quarters of the staff. In the Dacca Area, there was only one case of injury to railway staff. On the 25th August, at Bahadurabad Ghat Station, the work was suspended for the night owing to a mob of about 200 men assembling near the station.

On the B.N. Railway, on the 16th August, morning services between Khargpur and Howrah suffered detentions for periods varying between half-an-hour and one hour. The work at Shalimar and Shalimar Yard also suffered seriously and owing to fear of disturbances, the staff failed to turn up for duty. Consequently the booking of all goods traffic to the Shalimar Goods Shed and Sidings served by the Shalimar Yard was stopped. There was a serious dislocation of the services in the Howrah area on the 21st owing to Cabinmen and Yard Staff at Santagachi remaining away from their duties. A number of local trains had to be cancelled and special arrangements had to be made to feed the train staff at Howrah.

On the E.I. Railway some local trains from 17th August to 19th August 1946, two Parcel Express trains ex-Howrah on the 18th, trains on the Calcutta Chord Railway and all workmen's trains for Lillooah Workshops on the 17th were cancelled. During the period 16th August to 9th September the Up and Down Delhi Express trains were started from and terminated at Howrah, instead of Scaldah. 16 special trains were run from the 20th to the 25th August 1946 to cope with the heavy exodus of up-country inhabitants from Calcutta.

(b) On the B A Railway, staff quarters at Bahadurabad Ghat were looted on the 25th August. The Parcel Sheds and some wagons loaded with parcels were looted at Sealdah Station between the 17th and 19th August 1946. The loss is estimated at approximately three lakhs of rupees.

Particulars of the public injured while travelling in trains or while within railway premises are not available. Amongst the railway staff, the number of persons—

Killed is	7
Missing is	17
Whose belongings have been destroyed or looted	939

On the B N Railway the Lost Property Office at Ramrajatala was broken open on the 20th August and articles to the value of Rs 491 were stolen. A few consignments were pilfered from Shalimar Goods Shed during the period 16th August to 26th August and the value of the articles is not yet known.

Three persons are reported to be missing from Shalimar Marine staff. Only one report was received of injuries to a passenger. A Muslim travelling in a local tram was found dead at Ramrajatala on the 20th August, but it is not known whether he was a passenger or an assailant.

On the E I Railway, there were no reports of damage to railway property. The loss of merchandise due to the consignments not being taken delivery of is estimated at about Rs 50,000. 100 consignments of perishable and luggage valued at Rs 12,000 were stolen.

The casualties within the railway premises between the 18th and 20th August were five killed and six injured. It has not yet been determined whether any of these were railway employees or not. One railway employee of Bamagachhi Shed was reported killed in the Police firing on the 18th August and another of the same Shed was reported missing from the 16th August.

STRENGTH OF THE RAILWAY POLICE IN THE METRE GAUGE SECTION OF BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY

30. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state what special precautions were taken by the Railway Police during the recent communal disturbances in Bengal for the purpose of protecting railway property and passengers, as also ensuring regular running of train services?

(b) What is the normal organisation and strength of the Railway Police allotted for service in the Metre Gauge sections of the Bengal Assam Railway, particularly those Sections that serve the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Tipperah? Was the Railway Police re-inforced in these Sections by the Police authorities of the Province? If so, in what manner, from which date and in which Sections? Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the Police arrangements made during these days have been adequate for all practical purposes?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table any correspondence that may have taken place between any responsible officer of the Bengal Assam Railway and the Provincial Government or any of its officers on the subject mentioned in part (b) above?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali. (a) On the B A Railway in the Calcutta Area, the Railway Police were strengthened with armed police but the force was insufficient to guard the whole of the Sealdah area. They however were instrumental in saving the Sealdah Railway Station from being attacked. It was not possible for the Police authorities to give such adequate aid as would ensure regular running of the train service as the men at their disposal were not sufficient to man every train that was run. The Superintendent of Railway Police did all in his power to help whenever he was approached with urgent requests for assistance from any points outside Calcutta.

In the Chittagong Area, the Superintendent of Police was unable to provide armed guards to protect the Chittagong Railway Colony Pahartali area etc., but he arranged for Police patrols to visit the affected areas periodically. The District Magistrate imposed a curfew.

In the Dacca Area, armed Government Railway Police patrolled the station premises and yard at night. Armed guards have been travelling on each train between Dacca and Narayanganj since September and with effect from 3rd October, 300 men of the Indian Pioneer Force have been detailed for the protection of the Railway premises.

On the B N Railway, the Railway Police responded promptly to requests for additional police protection at stations until their limited resources were completely absorbed in duties connected with the protection of stations, staff quarters and trains. The Superintendent of Railway Police Howrah, was able to provide additional guards at Shalimar and Santiagachi with the Military detachments placed under his command. This action combined with a reinforcement of the Gurkha Railway Watch and Ward staff, was in a considerable measure responsible for the restoration of normal conditions in these localities.

On the E I Railway the Government Railway Police deputed extra staff from the 16th to 23rd August at Lalooah, Behur, Bally and Serampore Stations. At each of these stations one Sub-Inspector of Police and a few Constables (number ranging from 3 to 10) were posted as additional protection. No extra force of Railway Police was deputed at Howrah, but the whole of the force off duty were kept standing by from the 16th to 23rd August. Armed men of the Howrah District Police were also posted at Behur and other points. The number of the Railway Protection Force armed with lathies only in the affected area was about 100 at the beginning of the trouble, but was increased to about 250 by calling in detachments from outside stations.

(b) The normal strength of Railway Police allotted to the metre gauge section of the B A Railway including the sections serving the Districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Tipperah is—

Superintendent of Police	1
Inspectors	4
Sub-Inspectors	18
Assistant Sub-Inspectors	21
Sergeants	3
Head Constables	25
Constables	112
Others	4

Government are informed that the Government of Bengal have taken steps to protect the metre gauge section of the line in Dacca, Mymensingh and Tipperah Districts and also to ensure the safe running of trains by the deputation of a number of armed police. With regard to the last part, Railway Police force is considered adequate for normal times, but is not sufficient to meet with an emergency such as the one that arose in Calcutta in August last. This question is however receiving further consideration of Government.

(c) Government do not consider that public interest will be served by placing the correspondence on the table of the House as requested by the Honourable Member.

LAWLESSNESS ON THE DACCА, MYMENSINGH AND TIPPERAH SECTIONS OF BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY

31. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether Government are aware that certain portions of the Meter Gauge Section of the Bengal Assam Railway serving the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Tipperah, experienced, during the last few months, frequent acts of lawlessness, such as theft, loot, assault on passengers and kidnapping of women from trains? If so, will the Honourable Member please lay a detailed statement on the table of the House about the various incidents that took place during the last twelve months or so, giving dates? What complaints were received in this matter from time to time by the Railway authorities in Bengal and at Delhi, and what action was taken, and when, to deal with the situation?

(b) Was adequate action, both at the instance of the Railway Police and the Railway staff, taken in time for the purpose of preventing a recurrence of such occurrences and bringing the offenders to book? In how many such instances have the culprits been apprehended and put on trial, and with what result?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. A detailed statement of the incidents that took place during the last 12 months, together with full information regarding complaints received and action taken on them by the B. A. Railway has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course. No public complaints were received in the Railway Board's office but from early this year, they received from the General Manager, B. A. Railway, periodical reports of acts of hooliganism and lawlessness as a result of which considerable damage was caused to Railway property, running of trains was adversely affected, and Railway staff assaulted. The position was so bad that the General Manager considered it necessary to suggest that the Railway should have Armed Guards in the area near Bhanab Bazaar and that for this purpose, General Headquarters (India) should be moved to authorise the retention of 200 armed personnel of the Railway Protection Company. The suggestion, however, could not be accepted as it is illegal for Railway administrations to maintain an armed force in time of peace and it is the responsibility of the Provincial Government to afford such protection. The Bengal Government were continually asked by the Railway Administration to take preventive action immediately but as there was no tangible improvement, night running of trains on the affected sections was stopped on 20th September, 1946. On 26th September, 1946 the Administration reported that the Bengal Government had arranged for a posse of armed police to be stationed at Bhanab Bazaar for the manning of Patrol trains and providing armed escorts on trains when necessary. With effect from 1st October 1946 night running of all trains was resumed on the Chandpur Laksam Section, and to a limited extent on the other sections affected. The question of temporarily increasing the strength of the Railway Police to meet the emergency is under the active consideration of Government.

(b) I am satisfied that all action that could be taken by the Railway Administration for the protection of train services in the affected area was taken in time. The Bengal Government are responsible for the maintenance of Law and Order and prevention of crime. As regards the latter part of the question, information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

EFFECT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT AS A RESULT OF COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN PROVINCES

32. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications please lay a statement on the table of the House indicating how the activities of the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been affected since the 16th August, 1946, as a result of communal disturbances in each Province and local area affected?

(b) Has any property belonging to the Posts and Telegraphs Department or any article handled by its employees been damaged or lost anywhere as a result of communal disturbances since 16th August last? If so, what is the nature and extent of such damage or loss?

(c) Has there been any casualty among the employees of the Department in any part of the country as a result of the said communal disturbances?

(d) What is the normal understanding between the Department and the Provincial authorities in the matter of affording police and other necessary protection to premises of the Department and its staff as well as postal articles in transit (i) in ordinary circumstances and (ii) when any disturbances of the public peace take place?

(e) Has all necessary protection been afforded by the Provincial authorities in each place affected by the aforesaid communal disturbances?

(f) With reference to those Circles where the Postal employees were organised on a military basis during the war, has the question of resumption of militarisation of the departmental staff been under consideration, or is likely to be taken up for consideration, in order to meet any emergent situation that may prevail in such Circles or parts thereof due to communal disturbances or otherwise, as a measure of protection to the Department?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) to (c) and (e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(d) Arrangements exist between the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Provincial Governments for affording police and other protection both under ordinary circumstances and in time of disturbances wherever necessary.

(f) No.

EFFECT OF COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES ON THE WORKING OF CALCUTTA TELEPHONE SYSTEM

33. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to make a statement indicating how the working of the telephone system in the City of Calcutta and its suburbs was affected since the outbreak of communal disturbances on the 16th August last?

(b) Did the situation on the 16th and subsequent days necessitate a curtailment of the services in different exchanges? If so, what was the nature of the curtailment in the case of each affected Exchange, and was any instruction or suggestion, as regards the method and extent of such curtailment received from any official of the Provincial Government?

(c) Is it the usual practice or understanding that, in the event of telephone services having to be "rationed" due to any emergent circumstances, the Provincial Government or its officers will be consulted as regards the services that have to be maintained and services that may be discontinued?

(d) What principles were followed in any such rationing of telephone services in the city and suburbs of Calcutta during the week beginning from the 16th August, 1946, in the case of each Exchange?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) No. The Department tries to maintain telephone services of essential subscribers only in emergent circumstances. The lists of essential subscribers maintained by the Department are prepared in consultation with the Provincial Governments. The list for Calcutta was actually compiled at the beginning of the year in consultation with not only the Provincial Government, but the Calcutta Corporation, the Chambers of Commerce and the Railways.

Statement

(a) and (b) The telephone connections of only those subscribers who administered Essential Services were kept alive in the various exchanges as shown below. Other connections could not be worked during these periods for want of operating and technical staff --

Calcutta Exchange	• • •	From 8 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 4 P.M. on the 23rd August 1946.
Burra Bazar	•	From 12-10 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 9-20 A.M. on the 17th August, 1946. From 6 P.M. on the 19th August, 1946, to 9-50 A.M. on the 22nd August, 1946. The Exchange could not be worked at all from 9-30 A.M. on the 17th August, 1946, to 6 P.M. on the 19th August, 1946.
South Exchange	•	• From 4-20 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 6 P.M. on the 21st August, 1946.
Park Exchange	•	• From 6-40 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 5-30 P.M. on the 21st August, 1946.
Howrah Exchange	•	• From 8 P.M. on the 16th August, 1946, to 4-30 P.M. on the 21st August, 1946.

No instructions were received from the Provincial Government.

RESUMPTION OF NORMAL FUNCTIONS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT SINCE THE SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE

34. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to lay a detailed statement on the table of the House, indicating Province by Province the time when normal functioning of the Posts and Telegraphs Department was fully resumed in all aspects of its activity, since the settlement of the Postal strike?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that considerable delays are even now taking place in the transmission of letters and other postal articles from place to place in different areas? Have complaints been received by the Postal authorities on this subject, and if so, what action is proposed to be taken for avoiding such delays?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that telegrams received at the Central Telegraph Office in Calcutta are being delivered through the town Post Offices in the same manner as letters, no acknowledgment of receipt thereof being required and that as a consequence considerable interval, amounting to several days in some cases, elapses between the receipt of a telegram at the Central Telegraph Office Calcutta, and its actual delivery to the addressee?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) and (c) The required information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(b) The Government of India have no information but Heads of Circles have been addressed, and instructed to submit reports.

EFFICIENCY IN THE BENGAL TELEPHONE SERVICE

35. *Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state who are the present Manager and the Supervising Engineer in the Bengal Telephone Service?

(b) Are they the same officers who were serving under the Rangoon Telephone Service before the fall of that city?

(c) Have they got sufficient knowledge and efficiency to run the Calcutta Telephone Service where the number of Telephone lines is much larger than at Rangoon?

(d) Is it not a fact that they were provided with the posts as temporary officers, subject to the condition that their services would be dispensed with after the end of the war?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that since the Bengal Telephone Corporation had been taken over by Government, the efficiency of the Department has been considerably undermined?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the General Manager and the Superintending Engineer of the Calcutta Telephone District. Mr. McGee is the General Manager and Mr. J. T. Duncan is the Superintending Engineer of that District at present.

(b) Yes

(c) Yes

(d) No

(e) The fall in efficiency is the result of the abnormal conditions created by the war and not due to the taking over of the system by the Government.

FAILURE OF TELEPHONE SERVICE IN CALCUTTA DURING THE COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES

36. *Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Telephone Service at Calcutta had been completely paralysed on the 16th August and subsequent few days,

(b) the reason behind the complete collapse of the Telephone Service when it was possible to run the other essential services like the Electric and Water Supply Corporations,

(c) was any help sought from the Government of Bengal to maintain the service intact during the riot, and

(d) will the Honourable Member enquire into the authenticity of the Departmental note published by the Department concerned immediately after the incident, for explaining the complete failure of the Telephone system?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) No The service was not completely paralysed The essential telephones were maintained

(b) The dislocation was due to the mobility of the operating and other staff, to report for duty

(c) Yes, help was sought for the protection of the exchange buildings and installations and for escorts for staff Military guards and transport facilities were made available from Saturday, the 17th August

(d) The Press Note was based on the facts reported to the Government of India, who have no reason to doubt their authenticity

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN PROVINCES

37. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) the system of procurement of foodgrains followed by the various Provincial Governments and the amounts procured in the different Provinces thereunder since 1942-43 and the ratio they bear to the total production of foodgrains,

(b) how the system of procurement in Bengal has been working, and

(c) whether the system obtaining in Bengal has succeeded in procuring only a very small portion of the available rice in the Province, and if so, whether Government contemplate any change in the system of procurement of rice in that Province?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Statements are placed on the table

(b) and (c) The system of procurement in Bengal has not been found to be fully satisfactory and is in the process of modification in order to be made more effective

STATEMENT I
Showing the purchases and yield of Rice since 1943-44 to 1945-46
(In '000 tons)

Name of Province	1943-44			1944-45			1945-46		
	Purchases during the Kharif Plan 1943-44 from 1-11-43 to 31-10-44	Yield 1943-44	% of purchases (col 2) to yield (col 3)	Purchases during the Kharif Plan 1944-45 from 1-11-44 to 31-10-45	Yield 1944-45	% of purchases (col 2) to yield (col 3)	Purchases during the Kharif Plan 1945-46 from 1-11-45 to 30-9-46 (i.e. 11 months)	Yield 1945-46	% of purchases (col 8) to yield (col 9)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assam	187	2,704	52.2	19	1,83	11.1	152	2,016	7.5
Bengal	1,029 (a)	11,816	7	642 (b)	10,470	6.1	611	9,597	6.4
Bihar	144	2,932	4.8	53	2,972	2.0	85	2,160	3.5
Bombay	183	847	19.1	182	826	22.1	178.5	830	21.2
C. P. and Berar	205	1,829	11.5	326	1,724	18.9	298	1,623	18.3
Madras	833	4,032	13.9	773	5,074	15.3	1,204	3,827	31.5
Orissa	129	1,349	9.6	136	1,937	10.2	114	1,286	8.9
Punjab	151	425	37.5	113	149	31.8	149	454	30.8
Sind	188	663	28.3	192	561	34.0	201	688	29.2
U. P.	74	1,874	3.9	84	1,740	5.5	103	1,853	5.5
Coorg	16*	69	23.2	13*	62	21.0	11*	65	16.9

NOTE — a Purchases from 1-1-44 to 31-12-44

(b) Purchases from 1-1-45 to 31-12-45

* Represents quantities purchased for export against the Basic Plan quotas

STATEMENT II

Showing the purchases and yield of wheat since 1943-44 to 1945-46

(In '000 tons)

Name of Province	Purchases under Rabi Plan 1944-45 from 1-5-44 to 30-4-1945	Yield 1943-44	% of purchases (Col 2) to yield (Col 3)	Purchases under Rabi Plan 1945-46 from 1-5-46 to 30-4-46	Yield 1944-45	% of purchases (Col 5) to yield (Col 6)	Purchases under Rabi Plan 1946-47 from 1-5-46 to 3-10-46	Yield 1945-46	% of purchases (Col 8) to yield (Col 9)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assam									
Bengal		51			39			41	
Bihar	16	407	3.9	11	43	2.5	2	376	0.5
Bombay	138	270	51.1	80	296	27.0	26	237	11.0
C P & Berar	27	370	7.3	33	510	1.5	18	443	4.1
Madras									
N W F P	22	247	8.9	12	278	4.2	8	263	3.0
Orissa		2			2			2	
Punjab	577	3,442	16.8	630	3,904	15.9	327	3,230	10.1
Sind	257	508	50.6	99	342	28.9	152	321	47.4
U P	140	3,526	5.5	94	2,645	3.6	230	2,869	9.6
Ajmer/Merwara		10		0.6	9	6.7		7	
Baluchistan	20			9			N A		

Note — N A. = Not available

Procurement Arrangements in various Provinces

Punjab—The Punjab Government have now introduced a system of monopoly procurement of wheat. The essential features of the scheme are as follows—

(a) Operations relating to purchase of wheat in nearly 500 mandis of the Province will be completely controlled by Government. All the pucca Atyias of a mand, or such of them who are willing to join, will be constituted into a Pucca Atyias Association, and while the producers will be free to choose their Khatia Atyias the purchases will only be made by this Association.

(b) All wheat purchased by the Atyias Association will be disposed of only under the orders of Government.

(c) The purchases will be made at a price fixed for each mand, subject to quality allowances. Except in villages within 3 miles of the mand this price will be 0.40 acries higher and for those coming within 1 to 3 miles it will be 0.66 acries less. This should have the effect of encouraging movement toward the mandis.

(d) The Atyias Association will get a commission of Rs. 12 per Rs. 100 of the value of grain and gunny bags supplied.

(e) Sale of wheat by growers in villages except for the requirements of the village, or to a consumer in a neighbouring village upto 20 seers at a time is prohibited.

(f) Movement of wheat by rail and road is prohibited except between village and market or under Government permit from the market to the recipient areas.

The Punjab Government have also recently introduced a system of monopoly procurement of rice in the rice producing areas of the province. These have been called "controlled areas." The essential features of the scheme are as follows—

(i) The rice mill will be the centre of procurement operations as all rice (except for small quantities of hand pounded rice for domestic consumption) must inevitably pass through a mill. All rice produced at a mill will be disposed of only under the orders of Government.

(ii) Minimum prices have been fixed for all varieties of paddy in the controlled areas to ensure a fair return to the producers.

(iii) Maximum prices of each variety of paddy have been fixed for both the controlled and the uncontrolled areas.

(iv) Maximum ex-mill prices of various varieties of rice have also been fixed.

(v) The movement of rice and paddy in and from control areas will be controlled generally as in the case of wheat.

2 N.W.F.P.—Till recently, procurement was done through private trade under Government supervision and the requirements of deficit districts were supplied from surplus districts through normal trade channels. In 1945, a Wheat Procurement Order was promulgated which prohibited the sale or transfer of wheat by one person to another without authority from the Provincial Government, transactions of less than 20 maunds with the grower direct being excepted. For the current Rabi crop the N.W.F.P. Government have imposed a compulsory levy on holdings of 50 acres or more. The assessment on un-irrigated land is at a flat rate of two maunds per acre. A higher assessment is to be made on irrigated land.

3 Sind—With effect from the 15th May, 1946, the Sind Government have promulgated an order titled the "The Wheat and Grain Procurement Order" under which a Purchasing Officer may order that a wholesale dealer in any area shall not, except to the extent permitted by that Officer, sell wheat or grain to any person other than a Government Agent. The Order further prohibits the retailers in non-rationalised areas from selling wheat or grain in one transaction to any person in a quantity exceeding 20 seers at a time.

The system of procurement of rice has recently been changed. Under the Sind Rice Procurement Order (1946), Rice Mills cannot dispose of the rice produced by them except in accordance with the directions issued by authorised Government Officers. Movement by rail or river is controlled.

4 United Provinces—Till lately, the system of procurement was dependent on purchase of grain coming to the markets. From the current year a direct procurement scheme for Rabi has been introduced. Small producers whose outturn of Rabi crops is less than 10 maunds or whose total annual production is less than 20 maunds have been excepted. The Provincial Government's target has been distributed among the surplus districts according to the surplus estimated to be available in each. The district demand is then broken up among homogeneous tracts and within these tracts individual assessments are made after taking into consideration the average production per acre in the tract. Committees of peoples' representatives are to be closely associated with procurement at every stage.

5 Bihar—Purchases (subject to the limits of approved prices) are made by Government officers through accredited Agents chosen from the trade. In addition, a compulsory levy on paddy has recently been imposed which prohibits a producer holding 100

acres or more from disposing of any paddy exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ of his total produce. Individual assessments are made. Government may not, however, demand more than half the total produce if it is less than 1,000 maunds and more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total produce in any case. The Bihar Levy Order has since been extended to wheat.

8 *Bengal*—Purchases are made direct by Government Officers in certain districts and through Trade Agents called Chukl Purchasing Agents in others. All rice mills producing more than 50 maunds rice daily are required to sell their produce to Government. Rice and paddy can move only on Government account by rail or river. The Provincial Government have recently resorted also to requisitioning of stocks with the larger holders at their discretion.

7 *Assam*—Purchases in the Surma Valley are made direct by Government Officers on a tender system. The single trade agency which used to operate in the Assam Valley has since been replaced by an official procurement machinery.

3 *Orissa*—Purchases are made direct from the producers and also in the open market through a number of agents in each of the six districts of the Province. Purchase or sale of rice on private account in quantities exceeding 10 maunds and stocking of more than 100 maunds by anyone having Government Agents is prohibited. Government have fixed prices for rice and paddy payable to producers.

9 *Madræs*—A Scheme of intensive procurement in respect of rice, paddy, millets and other allied foodgrains is in force in the entire province. Under this scheme the entire surplus of the cultivator is acquired by Government through their Trade Agents after allowing for his annual domestic and seed requirements and for moving labour and other customary charges in kind. The Provincial Government have formed village, taluqa and town committees to assist in the procurement and distribution operations.

In the Malabar District the trade has been completely eliminated and the work of procurement and distribution has been handed over to the Co-operative Societies.

10 *Central Provinces*—Government are the sole buyers of foodgrains brought to the markets. In the case of Jowar there is a form of non-statutory levy under which the producer is expected to contribute a specific portion of his crop to Government. In the case of wheat a compulsory levy first introduced in 1944 and not continued in 1945 has been reintroduced this year in all the districts of the Jubbulpore Division. The levy is applicable to holdings of 10 acres or more.

11 *Bombay*—There is a compulsory levy on a graded scale with a minimum exemption limit of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per producer which is allowed for domestic and seed requirements for the year. Government are the sole buyers of other surpluses.

12 *Baluchistan*—There is monopoly purchase by Government.

CULTIVATION AND MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN PROVINCES SINCE 1938

38. ***Sree Satyapriya Banerjee**: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) the yearly acreage under cultivation of foodgrains Province by Province, since 1938,

(b) the quantity of foodgrains produced in each Province yearly since 1938,

(c) the quantity of foodgrains imported yearly since 1938 and the names of the countries from which imported,

(d) the quantity of foodgrains exported yearly since 1938 and the countries to which exported, and

(e) the quantity of foodgrains purchased yearly by the Government of India and the different Provincial Governments since 1942-43?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b) A statement showing the acreage and yield of the seven major foodgrains (rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, barley, maize and gram) for the year 1945-46 is laid on the table of the house. For figures relating to previous years, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to "Food Statistics of India," a copy of which is placed on the table †.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) No exports of cereals are being allowed from August 1943 onwards, except small quantities as ship stores, etc., or on a replacement basis. For information relating to earlier years, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to pages 87-90 of 'Food Statistics of India' and the Government publications referred to therein.

†Not printed in these Debates. Copies placed in the Library of the House.

(e) A statement showing the purchases made by the various Provincial Governments during the years 1943-44 onwards is laid on the table. Information for the year 1942-43 is not readily available.

Statement showing area and yield of the seven major foodgrains in the various provinces during the year 1945-46

Provinces	Area* (Figures in '000 acres)	Yield* (Figures in '000 tons)
Assam	5,303	2,016
Bengal	27,672	9,824
Bihar	15,256	4,010
Bombay	16,104	2,213
C. P. & Borer	15,328	3,362
Coorg	87	65
Madras	16,456	5,153
Orissa	5,193	1,306
Punjab	24,317	6,195
Sind	4,044	1,242
United Provinces	33,464	9,244
N. W. F. P.	2,056	607
Delhi	157	42
Ajmer-Merwara	308	36

* These figures are subject to revision

Statement showing quantity of foodgrains imported into India during the years 1937-38 to 1945-46

Years	Quantity (in 1,000 tons)
1937-38	1,596
1938-39	1,872
1939-40	2,714
1940-41	1,519
1941-42	1,202
1942-43	86
1943-44	284
1944-45	731 (a) (a) Includes 4,500 on replacement basis.
1945-46	938 (b) (b) From 1st April 1945 to 30th March 1946. This includes imports amounting to 6,500 on replacement basis.

Up to the year 1943-44 imports of rice were received mainly from Burma, French Indo-China, Siam. Imports of rice in 1944-45 were from Egypt and in 1945-46 from Burma and Egypt. Imports of wheat have been received mainly from Australia, Canada, U.S.A.

Statement showing the Purchases of different foodgrains by various Provinces

(Figures in 1,000 tons)

Name of Provinces	1943-44				1944-45				1945-46*			
	1943-44		1944-45		1944-45		1944-45		1945-46		1945-46	
	Total Procurement under Kharif Plan 1943-44	Total Procurement under Rabi Plan 1944-45	Total Purchases of 1943-44 crops	Total Procurement under Kharif Plan 1944-45	Total Procurement under Rabi Plan 1945-46	Total Purchases of 1944-45 crops	Total Procurement under Kharif Plan 1944-45	Total Procurement under Rabi Plan 1945-46	Total Procurement under Kharif Plan 1945-46	Total Procurement under Rabi Plan 1946-47	Total Purchases of 1945-46 crops	Total Purchases of 1946-47 crops
Assam	187		187	209	..	209	642	..	613	..	152	152
Bengal	1,029		1,029	642	..	642	53	11	88	2	613	613
Bihar	156	22	178	53	11	64	528	86	349	26	90	90
Bombay	414	138	552	404	33	600	773	15	340	18	375	375
C. P. and Berar	365	27	392	773	..	437	2	17	1,222	..	358	358
Madras	833		833	2	15	773	136	114	..	8	1,222	1,222
N. W. F. P.		24	24	136	647	136	196	833	149	331	114	114
Orissa	129		129	196	99	833	204	201	201	162	480	480
Punjab	246	590	836	196	111	291	180	204	204	271	363	363
Sind	192	257	449	180	0 6	291	..	0 6	..	..	475	475
U. P.	143	180	323	180	9	291	24	9	21	..	..	..
Ajmer-Merwara				..	9	33	13	13	11	..	..	..
Baluchistan	29	20 5	49 5	24	9	33	13	13	11	..	..	..
Coorg	16		16	13	..	13	13	13	11	..	..	..
Goa	N.A.	..	N.A.	N.A.	..	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

*Figures incomplete.

EXTENSION OF RAILWAY LINE FROM JUBBULPORE TO NAGPUR

39. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether a preliminary or regular survey for laying a broad gauge Railway line from Jubbulpore to Nagpur (via Seoni) was made during 1910-11 or at any time thereafter;

(b) if so, whether the Reports of the surveys will be placed in the Library of the House,

(c) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid extension was included in the post-war development plans or programmes and a map showing the proposed line as a part of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway extension project was published by the Government of India, and

(d) if so, whether a copy of the said map will be placed in the Library of the House?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) According to the information available, neither a preliminary nor a regular survey for constructing a Broad Gauge line from Jubbulpore to Nagpur via Seoni was made in 1910-11, or at any time thereafter. An estimate for a Traffic and Engineering survey for this line, amounting to Rs 77,000 was, however, prepared in 1927, and the C P Government were asked to bear the cost, but they declined to do so stating that they did not consider the prospects of the line warranted the outlay. In 1945, the Provincial Industries Committee Central Provinces and Berar recommended the construction of this line and the matter was referred to the G I P and B N Railways, and both of them considered that the line would be expensive and unremunerative. As the Local Government also did not ask for this line to be included in the post-war plan of railways, the matter was dropped.

(b) In the circumstances explained in part (a) of the question, no survey was carried out and therefore no reports are available.

(c) and (d) Since the Local Government have not asked for this line to be included in the post-war plan of railways, the project has not been included in the post-war development programme and as such no map showing the proposed line as a part of G I P Railway has been published by the Government.

EXTENSION OF RAILWAY LINE FROM JUBBULPORE TO NAGPUR

40. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the reasons, in detail, on account of which the Railway extension referred to in the preceding question instead of being taken up was given up?

(b) Do Government propose to take up the extension now, as it has been recommended by the Central Provinces and Berar Industries Committee, 1946, the Report of which has been accepted by the local Government in question?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The position has been fully explained in part (a) of the preceding question.

(b) Government would give prompt and due consideration to the investigation of this line if recommended by the Local Government, who have so far not asked for this line to be included in the post-war plan of railways.

PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES IN BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY FROM MADRAS, BENGAL AND ORISSA

41. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state how many miles the Bengal-Nagpur Railway runs in the Central Provinces, and how many miles it runs in the Provinces of Madras, Bengal, and Orissa?

(b) What is the income to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway from each of these Provinces?

(c) What is the percentage of employees from each of these Provinces in Officers' rank, Inspectors' rank, Upper and Lower subordinate services?

(d) Is any quota fixed for the people of any Province?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information

(b) Government are unable to give the information as statistics are not maintained showing the income to a railway from each Province

(c) Staff Statistics also are not maintained by Provinces and, therefore, the information required by the Honourable Member is not available with Government

(d) No Recruitment to Railway Services is not made on a territorial basis

B N Railway statement showing mileage by Provinces

Central Provinces	.	.	.	.	.	11,87.69
Madras	.	.	.	.	.	257.75
Bengal	.	.	.	.	.	244.00
Orissa	.	.	.	.	.	507.81

PROMOTION IN BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

42. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion for promotion in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway,

(b) whether Government are aware that academical qualifications are a disqualification in the Bengal Nagpur Railway, and

(c) the reason why fresh recruits are given preference over more qualified permanent employees of the Railway and why fresh graduates are appointed as Yard apprentices and fresh law-graduates as Claims Inspectors and Labour Inspectors, over the head of many law-graduates already serving the Railway who have much better knowledge of the Railway than the new recruits?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The Bengal Nagpur Railway follow the rules regarding promotion prescribed in Appendix II-A to the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol I, as amended by Correction Slip No N566. A copy of the rules will be found in the Library of the House. Briefly, the principle is that promotion to non-selection posts is made in order of seniority, the senior man being superseded only if he has been declared unfit for such promotion. Promotion to selection posts is made on the basis primarily of merit, due consideration being given to seniority

(b) Government are informed that this is not so

(c) I have called for the facts and will lay a statement on the table of the House in due course

PROMOTION IN BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

43. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state why the Bengal Nagpur Railway does not adopt a uniform policy regarding all promotions by holding competitive examinations through competent authorities to be constituted for the purpose?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As I have just stated in my reply to part (a) of Question No 42, the Bengal Nagpur Railway follow the rules regarding promotion prescribed in Appendix II-A to the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol I, as amended by Correction Slip No N566. A copy of the rules will be found in the Library of the House. Government do not consider that competitive examinations are suitable for the purpose of regulating promotions in non-gazetted railway services

FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA

44. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the food situation in the country and the measures that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to cope with it?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member is referred to the Memorandum on Food Position laid on the table of the House †

ENQUIRY INTO THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA

45. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been any enquiry by Government into the Co-operative movement in India since the MacLagon Committee published its report on Co-operation, and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to co-ordinate the Co-operative movements in different Provinces, if so, whether the Government of India propose for this purpose, to enquire into the condition of the Co-operative movement in the country and take necessary action thereafter?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A number of enquiries into the working of the Co-operative movement in the different provinces have been held by the Provincial Governments concerned. The subject was also dealt with by the Royal Commission on Agriculture and by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee. A Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr R. G. Saraya, was appointed by the Government of India in January 1945 to draw up a plan of Co-operative Development. The report of this Committee is expected to be published shortly.

(b) With a view to co-ordinate the Co-operative movements in different Provinces, Conferences of Registrars of Co-operative Societies and non official workers have been convened by the Government of India periodically in the past. It is proposed to hold such a Conference early next year to consider the recommendations of the Saraya Committee which was set up on the recommendation of the 14th Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies. The question of setting up a Central Co-ordinating body will be considered by the Government of India after the Conference has examined the recommendation of the Saraya Committee in this respect.

CONTROL OF PRICE, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS IN BENGAL

46. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) whether he is aware of the high and sharp rise in the price of rice in the different districts of Bengal, especially the districts of Jalpaiguri, Comilla, Noakhali and Chittagong,

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the reports in the Press of deaths from starvation,

(c) the steps taken so far by Government to control the price, supply and distribution of food-stuff, specially in Bengal,

(d) the quantity of import of food-grains from foreign countries during the last six months, the names of those countries and their quantities, and

(e) the quantity of export, if any, of foodgrains from India to other countries?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (i) Yes Sir

(b) Yes Sir but no authentic reports of deaths from starvation have been received from any of the districts

(c) Government stocks are being sent to the deficit districts where prices are high and distributed at controlled rates under a system of modified rationing

(d) A statement is laid on the table of the House

(e) Exports of foodgrains outside India are totally prohibited except for small quantities allowed as ships stores etc

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Statement showing foodgrains imported in India during six months

April to September 1946

(Cereals other than Rice)

April	U S A	20,706	Wheat	
	Canada	7 500	,	
	Australia	62 182	„	
	Australia	12 908	Wheat equivalent of 9 350 tons of flour	
			at 73 % extract on basis	
	Total	112 186		
May	Australia	62,189	Wheat	
	Australia	42 470	Wheat equivalent of 31,003 tons of flour.	
	U S A	26,164	Wheat	
	Canada	3,500	Wheat	
	U K	5 500	Wheat equivalent of 4 000 tons of flour.	
	Total	139 87		
June	Australia	5 198	Wheat	
	Australia	15 815	Wheat equivalent of 11,603 tons of flour.	
	Canada	39 314	„	
	Total	107 607		
July	Australia	48 471	Wheat	
	Australia	45 478	Wheat equivalent of 33,199 tons of flour.	
	Canada	53,212	Wheat	
	U S A	33 879	Wheat	
	U S A	76,979	Maize	
	Total	258,019		
August	Australia	5 931	Wheat	
	Australia	19,245	Wheat equivalent of 14,09 tons of flour.	
	Australia	1 050	Barley	
	Canada	9 308	Wheat	
	U S A	43,105	Wheat	
	U S A	8 913	Maize	
	Argentina	25 301	Maize	
	Burma	2 730	Maize	
	Iraq	170	Millets	
	Egypt	19 625	Millets	
	Total	182 378		
September	Australia	41 836	Wheat	
	Australia	30 714	Wheat equivalent of 26,108 tons of flour	
	Australia	200	Millets	
	U S A	67 581	Wheat	
	U S A	5 100	Maize	
	U S A	7,625	Milo	
	Burma	2 300	Maize	
	Argentina	26,182	Maize	
	Egypt	4,709	Barley	
	Egypt	14,644	Millets	
	Abbyssenia	1,421	Millets	
	Total	209,362		

II RICE

May	Burma	9 381	
June (1)	Burma	24 377	
July	Burma	36 068	
	Sam	8 700	
	Sagon	3 890	
	Total	49 158	
August	Burma	22 908	
	Brasil	9 500	
	Total	32 408	
September	Burma	54 248	
	Java	4 000	Rice equivalent of 6 019 tons of Paddy
	Total	58 248	

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORDER BY THE DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTS OFFICER, N W RAILWAY, KARACHI TO CLERKS STUDYING IN COLLEGES

1 **Seth Sukhdev** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Divisional Accounts Officer North Western Railway Karachi called for a list of his office clerks who were studying in various colleges in their off duty hours

(b) whether it is a fact that on receiving this list of names he has called upon them either to (i) resign from service or (ii) give up college studies and produce a certificate to the effect from the college authorities

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative the specific rule of the Establishment or any other Code under which this order has been issued, and

(d) if no such rule exists whether it is proposed to withdraw this order if not why not?

The Honourable Mr M Asaf Ali (a) Government are informed that the Divisional Accounts Officer Karachi called for a list of clerks who although being in Government employment were attending colleges as regular students

(b) The Divisional Accounts Officer warned them that their continuance as regular students of a college particularly when on occasions they had to attend classes during office hours would interfere with their official duties

(c) Does not arise I would however invite the Honourable Member's attention to Rule 2004 of the State Railway Establishment Code a copy of which is in the Library of the House According to this rule the whole time of a railway servant is at the disposal of Government

(d) In view of my reply to part (b) above this does not arise

SEPARATE SERVICE FOR TRANSIT CLERKS AND VAN SORTERS ON N W RAILWAY

2 **Seth Sukhdev** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it was proposed to have on the North Western Railway a separate service for Transit Clerks and Van Sorters? If so has this proposal materialised?

(b) What were the main features of this proposal? Are Goods Markers likely to be promoted as Transit Clerks or Van Sorters under the scheme? What other channel of promotion has been laid down for them?

(c) If no channel of promotion exists for non-Matriculate Goods Markers, is it proposed to promote them in the Transit Clerks Branch?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) There was no proposal to have a separate service for Transit Clerks and Van Sorters on the M.W. Railway. It was, however, proposed to have a separate cadre for Transit Clerks as distinct from Goods Clerks, but the proposal did not materialise.

(b) The main feature of the proposal was to have separate cadres for Goods and Transit Clerks due to the fact that, Transit duties being unpopular, Goods Clerks evaded performing such duties on one pretext or the other when posted to the work. The question of opportunities for promotion of Goods Markers as Transit Clerks or Van Sorters did not arise in this scheme.

As regards the last part of the question, there is no regular channel of promotion for Goods Markers, but if any of them is a Matriculate and fulfils certain conditions regarding service and age and is also considered fit by his Divisional Superintendent to undergo the requisite course of training, he is allowed to qualify as a Commercial Clerk (which term includes Transit Clerk, Goods Clerk and Parcel Clerk), through the Railway Service Commission and the Walton Training School, after which he is eligible to be posted as a Commercial Clerk.

(c) As Transit duty forms part of the duties of Goods Clerks and Parcel Clerks, Transit Clerks are drawn from among qualified persons in these two categories. Goods Markers who are not so qualified are not eligible for appointment to the grade of Transit Clerks.

CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION AT AGRA

3. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if Government intend to construct a Central Station at Agra? If so, when and where?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Railways concerned have under consideration the construction of a Central Station at Agra. As the matter is still in its very early stages, it cannot be stated definitely whether a new station will ultimately be constructed and, if so, when and where.

CONSTITUTION OF INDEPENDENT BAR COUNCIL

4. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state whether Government are considering taking steps for the constitution of an independent Bar Council for dealing with all classes of lawyers (barristers, advocates, vakils, pleaders, muktears, etc.) on one common and uniform basis?

Sir George Spence: This question is not at the moment under the consideration of Government who however understand that the All-India Bar Councils Conference has set up a committee to consider and draft relevant amendments to the Bar Councils Act. Government presume that a copy of the committee's report will be furnished to them and in that event it will receive their careful consideration.

OVER-BRIDGE ON THE AGRA JOGNER ROAD CROSSING OF AGRA CANTONMENT RAILWAY STATION ON THE G I P RAILWAY

5. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if Government intend to remove the longstanding grievances of the Agra public by constructing an over-bridge on the Agra-Jogner road crossing of the Agra Cantonment Railway Station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway? If so, when? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The proposal to construct a Central Station at Agra, which is being examined by the Railways concerned, will ultimately affect the decision whether an overbridge should be constructed on the Agra-Jogner road crossing near Agra Cantonment railway station. Till a decision is reached on the former issue, it cannot be decided whether an overbridge will be necessary.

ABSENCE OF RAILWAY IN HAMIRPUR DISTRICT OF THE UNITED PROVINCES

6. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Govt. are aware that there is no Railway line in the Hamirpur District of the United Provinces,

(b) whether Govt. are aware that if a small line about twenty miles long from Harpalpore to Rath is constructed, it will go a long way to meet the demand of the Hamirpur public,

(c) whether Govt. are aware that there is no river or rivulet in the above twenty mile long patch, and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of constructing this line, if so, when?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes, except that a portion of the Candupore-Kharanda line, which is being restored, will pass through this area

(b) There has been no demand either from the public or the Provincial Government for a railway line from Harpalpore to Rath.

(c) It appears from the Survey Map that there are some rivulets in the area

(d) Government would first like to receive the views of the United Provinces Government

PLATFORMS OF THE KHARAGPUR STATION AND DEFECTIVE ROOFS OF TRAIN COMPARTMENTS ON BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

7. Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware of the fact that the platforms of the Kharagpur Station, the longest one in India, are totally uncovered, causing thereby much inconvenience and discomfort to the passengers during rains and in the summer?

(b) Are Government aware that most of the roofs of the compartments of the Bengal Nagpur Railway trains are defective due to innumerable leakage, causing much inconvenience to the passengers during incessant rainfall?

(c) Are Government aware that first class compartments of the local trains between Midnapore and Howrah, etc. in fact no better than third classes, consisting of wooden benches only and are without any light?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes. It is, however, understood from the Railway Administration that necessary provision has been made for the carrying out of this work in the post-war programme of that railway

(b) Due to the shortage of supplies during the war, some carriages on the railway had to be re-roofed with painted canvas. Supplies of standard materials have now been received and carriages are being re-roofed at the rate of 38 per month. It is expected that before the beginning of the next monsoon, all carriages will have been re-roofed with standard material

(c) The seats of 1st and 2nd class compartments of suburban trains running between Midnapur and Howrah had to be fitted with wooden slats on account of continuous thefts of and damage to reene and canvas upholstery and the war-time impossibility of obtaining the necessary materials for replacement purposes. There has been also lack of lighting due to excessive thefts of lamps, lamp-holders, and other electric fittings and the war-time difficulty of obtaining the necessary supplies. The position will be adjusted as materials and fittings become available

TRAINS AND THIRD CLASS WAITING ROOMS ON BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

8. Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government are aware of the fact that though the war emergency has long since ceased to exist, the number of trains on Bengal Nagpur Railway are still extremely limited and consequently the passengers are compelled to travel on the board of compartments or even on the roofs, causing the apprehension of great risk to human lives?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that the Bengal Nagpur Railway stations have practically no arrangements of waiting rooms for the third class passengers and only inadequate arrangements for the first, second and inter class passengers?

(c) What is the Government policy regarding the amelioration of the condition of the third class passengers specially in the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Since the cessation of hostilities, many trains have been restored and on the Bengal Nagpur Railway train services are now only 82 per cent less in number than before the war. Government have no doubt that foot board travel has had to be restored to, but it is hoped that such conditions will soon disappear.

(b) Government are aware that there is room for much improvement in the provision of waiting room facilities for all classes of passengers. The following provisions for additional waiting rooms have been made in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway's post-war programme

	Rs
1947-48	99,000
1948-49	194,100
1949-50	164,000
1950-51	56,000
1951-52	12,000
Total	525,000

(c) Government intend to do everything possible to improve the conditions of III Class travel at the earliest possible time.

EFFICIENCY IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

9. Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Communications aware of the fact that the efficiency of the Posts and Telegraphs Department has been considerably undermined during recent times, causing unusual delay in the delivery of letters and telegrams?

(b) Do Government propose to see that the former efficiency of the Department is restored at the earliest possible time and thereby save the people in general from lot of inconvenience?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) and (b) Yes, Government are taking steps to improve the efficiency of the Department and remove the inconvenience to the public.

STATEMENT RE FOOD SITUATION PROVINCE BY PROVINCE

10. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement in continuation of the one made on the 5th February, 1946, in the Legislative Assembly in answer to unstarred question No. 7, dealing with the food situation, Province by Province, and specially indicating—

(i) the crop prospects, (ii) the progress of the basic plan, (iii) stocks and supply position, (iv) prevailing prices in rationed as well as non-rationed areas, (v) imports received from outside India and their allocation to different Provinces, and (vi) imports expected in future, month by month, and their probable allocation?

(b) Are Government aware of the acute shortage of rice and prevailing high prices thereof in certain parts of Bengal? If so, will a separate statement be made dealing with the situation?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) A memorandum on the food position is laid on the table of the House †

(b) In Bengal, shortages have occurred in the deficit districts particularly in East Bengal and prices have risen considerably. Supplies to these areas

were disorganised as a result of the disturbances in Calcutta in August 1946 and further dislocations have been caused by recent unrest in the districts of Noakhali and Tipperah. The Government of Bengal are trying to meet the situation by sending Government stocks to these districts, which are released at controlled rates under a system of modified rationing. Normal despatches are being supplemented by air-borne supplies to Tipperah and Noakhali.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN BENGAL

11. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state how many miles of roads of different descriptions have been constructed in the Province of Bengal etc. since the Standing Committee for Roads met last, and when it last met?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Standing Committee for Roads last met on the 16th March 1946.

The mileages of roads of various descriptions constructed by the Government of Bengal since March 1946 are not known to the Government of India, and it has not been possible to obtain the information in the time available, but it will be called for, if the Honourable Member will kindly indicate whether he is referring to new construction or improvements.

ACTION ON RESOLUTION *RE* MORE YARN FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

12. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) what steps have been taken or are being taken for implementing the resolution which was adopted with amendments by the House after the debates on the 31st January and the 4th of February, 1946, over the question of having more yarn for handloom weavers, and

(b) whether Government have considered the question of popularising *Uharika* for the purpose of getting increased output of yarn?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) In February 1945, an all-India Handloom Board was constituted to safeguard the interests of handloom weavers. It has not been found practicable to compel cotton textile mills to release one-third of the yarn manufactured by them for the use of handlooms. Handloom weavers at present are getting roughly one-quarter of the total yarn manufactured in India or about 90,000 bales a month. A reservation of 25 per cent. for handloom consumption has been made in respect of all further expansion of production.

(b) This is receiving the attention of Provincial Governments.

ACTION BY THE POLICE AND RAILWAY AUTHORITIES *re* CONSIGNMENTS OF DAGGERS AND KNIVES IN TRANSIT

13. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving instances in which consignments of knives, daggers or other lethal weapons were discovered by the Railway authorities or the Railway Police while in transit in different parts of the country since July last, and indicating in each case, the date and place of such discovery, the place of origin of such consignments and their destination, the nature and number of weapons, and the action taken at the instance of the Railway authorities or the Railway Police?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The information required by the Honourable Member is not readily available. In order to obtain the information, a reference is being made to all railway administrations. On receipt of the information a reply will be laid on the table.

PARCELS OF KNIVES AND DAGGERS, THEIR PLACE OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

14. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state whether there have been instances in which parcels containing knives, daggers or other lethal weapons have been discovered in any part of

the country while in transit since July last? If so, will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House particulars of each such instance, giving the date and place of such discovery, the place of origin of such parcels and their destination, the nature and number of weapons, and the action taken at the instance of the Postal authorities or the Police?

Sir Harold Shobert: The Government of India have no official information but enquiries are being made from the Heads of the Circles

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

[INFORMATION FURNISHED IN REPLY TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE TODAY.]

Khan Bahadur Shauk Fazl-ul-Haq Poonacha started question No. 490 of 17th March 1944

BANKING FACILITIES TO PILGRIMS TO HINDIA

(a) Indian pilgrims do take with them to the Hajj Indian currency notes. They face exchange difficulties in this sense that owing to a great demand for rupees during the pilgrimage season and its being in short supply its price keeps rising and that of rupees and currency of other countries depreciates. Discount, such as not paid by pilgrims.

(b) Glattey Hanker & Co. who are the correspondents of the National Bank of India and the Netherlands Trading Society of Bombay give banking facilities to Indian pilgrims. The Indian Section of the British Legation Jeddah affords every possible assistance to pilgrims.

Late Mr. K. S. Gupta's starred Question No. 533 of 20th March, 1944

ALLOTMENT ON ENTERTAINMENT OF BRITISH AND INDIAN TROOPS

On the assumption that the Honourable Member desired information regarding the expenditure on entertainment (e.g., concert parties, etc.) as distinct from amenities and comforts, the answer is—

(a) No figures of expenditure on entertainment as distinct from general amenities are available for the year 1942-43.

(b) The amount spent per head in 1943-44, was—

Indian troops—Rs. 61.3

British troops—Rs. 30.4

and in 1944-45—

Indian troops—Rs. 15.0

British troops—Rs. 7.70

(c) The proportion of British to Indian troops during the year 1944-45 was 1:7.

(d) No expenditure on entertainment is met from Indian revenues in respect of British and foreign troops not paid from the Indian Exchequer.

Mr. Huseenbhai A. Lalljee's starred question No. 653 of 5th March, 1945

DIFFICULTIES OF OVERSEAS INDIAN STUDENTS SEEKING ADMISSION TO COLLEGES IN INDIA

(a) Government of India are not aware that any great difficulty is experienced by candidates from overseas (particularly from South and East Africa) in securing admission in Arts and Science Colleges in India, except when the degrees possessed by them are not recognised by the Universities concerned. The question of recognition of the degrees and diplomas of South African Universities possessed by Indian students by the Universities in India was referred to the Registrars of all the Universities in India and practically all the Universities have expressed their willingness to consider these cases sympathetically. The matter was also placed before the Inter-Universities Board at its meeting in December, 1945. They have also recommended that the Universities in India should consider sympathetically the question of the recognition of the degrees and diplomas of South African Universities possessed by Indian nationals.

(b) The Universities do not charge any capitation fees but Provincial Governments who run technical or professional institutions of their own do so for admitting students belonging to other Provinces. The Provincial Governments pay capitation fees only in respect of those candidates who are deputed by them.

Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's short notice question of 29th January 1946

CLOTH AND YARN POSITION

Mr Muhammad Nauman's Supplementary question

India was exporting much larger quantities of yarn before the war, the statement below shows annual exports of yarn

EXPORTS OF YARN					
Year					Quantity in tons
1929	.	.	.	.	16,964
1930	.	.	.	.	16,071
1931	.	.	.	.	14,733
1932	.	.	.	.	12,053
1933	.	.	.	.	11,160
1934	.	.	.	.	9,375
1935	.	.	.	.	8,031
1936	.	.	.	.	8,482
1937	.	.	.	.	16,071
1938	.	.	.	.	15,178
1939	.	.	.	.	12,053
1940	.	.	.	.	16,517
1941	.	.	.	.	39,722
1942	.	.	.	.	15,178
1943	.	.	.	.	3,977
1944	.	.	.	.	5,630
1945	.	.	.	.	5,280
1946 (1st half year)	.	.	.	.	298
(2nd half year)	.	.	.	.	180

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad's supplementary question

All counts of yarn produced in India are made available for distribution to handloom weavers

Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal's supplementary question

Information in the possession of Government goes to show that there are very few unemployed handlooms, though not all are employed every day. Statistics are not maintained

Sri R Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No. 110 of 8th February, 1946

RECRUITMENT OF SUBORDINATE STAFF ON B B AND C I, AND SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS

The number of persons recruited direct during the year 1945 on the B B & C I Railway to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p m and over is as follows.—

Hindus	.	.	.	.	35
Muslims	.	.	.	.	7
Anglo-Indians	.	.	.	.	8
Other Minority Communities	.	.	.	.	30

Mr. K C Neogy's unstarred question No. 27 of 8th February 1946.

CLOSED AND REOPENED RAILWAY STATIONS

Statement showing Stations closed during the war and those reopened or proposed to be reopened in the near future as on 1st February 1946

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Railways	Passenger Traffic			Goods Traffic		
	(a) Number of stations closed during the war	(b) Number of stations reopened since cessation of hostilities	(c) Number of stations which it is proposed to reopen in the near future	(a) Number of stations closed during the war	(b) Number of stations reopened since cessation of hostilities	(c) Number of stations which it is proposed to reopen in the near future
B.A.	30	21	2	71	22	2
B., B & C I	64	20	24	80	48	2
B N	29*	.	5	...	...	.
Bikaner	.	.	.	.	.	.
E I.	131	23	49	164	...	132
G. I. P.	13	.	2	93	...	38
Jodhpur	2	.	.	2	.	.
M & S M	14	.	6	67	1	4
Mysore	29	15	9	.	.	..
N. S.	4	.	.	35	.	...
N. W.	100	34	.	301	53	...
O. T.	...	.	.	.	.	..
S I	109	17	.	125	1	26
Total	515	130	97	927	125	204

* 18 stations for both of 1945 and 1946.

Prof N G. Ranga's starred question No 139 of 11th February 1946

PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FOR INDIAN LABOURERS IN BURMA

Further inquiries made from the Representative of the Government of India in Burma have revealed that the difference in the prices prevailing in Bombay and Rangoon varies substantially. Without house rent, the total of all the commodities is about 300 per cent cheaper than in Bombay, but the other food items average more than 200 per cent above Bombay. The items relating to cloth are over 300 per cent higher than in Bombay. The conditions in Rangoon are still fluid and vary frequently. At times certain amenities may not be purchasable at all and in some cases these are substituted by others. In the circumstances it is not possible to estimate the cost at which amenities purchasable for Rs 60 in Bombay by Indian labourers can be purchased in Rangoon by persons of the same class.

Prof N G. Ranga's supplementary to Sri M. Ananthasayanam's starred question No 194 of 12th February, 1946

EDITOR OF *Perspective*

QUALIFICATIONS OF MISS OUWERKERK

Miss Ouwerkerk is an M.A. of Cambridge University. She has been in India for about 16 years during which time she has lectured on Economics in a South Indian State and has also been Travelling Secretary to the Indian International Fellowship. She has travelled extensively in India and has made a special study of a wide range of Indian problems.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's starred question No 235 of 13th February, 1946

RECRUITMENT OF SUBORDINATE STAFF ON M & S M RAILWAY

(a) to (f). The number of persons recruited by direct appointment during the year 1945, on the M & S M Railway to posts carrying a salary of Rs 100 p.m. and over as follows—

Anglo-Indians	1
Other Minority Communities—	
Indian Christians Sikhs and Parsees	1
Hindus	6

Seth Govind Das's starred question No 279 of 14th February, 1946

LOSS TO INDIANS IN MALAYA DUE TO CHANGE OF CURRENCY

(b) Burma Government have not exchanged Japanese currency and there is no information of their intention to do so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam's starred question No 302 of 18th February, 1946

VICTORY DAY PARADE AT DELHI

Statement showing expenditure incurred on Victory in Europe Parade and other Parades held on the occasion of distribution of Victoria Crosses

	(In thousands of rupees)
V. F. Parade	38
V. C. Parades—	
10th November 1941	
1st July 1943	3
5th January 1944	1
24th October 1944	19
13th March 1945	22
19th December 1945	24

NOTE.—The expenditure shown above includes cost of transportation of troops, their accommodation and other supplies and services such as electricity, water, etc. It does not include cost of rations which is a normal charge wherever the troops may be.

Mr K. C. Neogy's Supplementary question to Prof N G. Ranga's starred question No. 340 of 19th February 1946

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECOND FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW

The reply given to the Russian objection was that Indian troops had fought in great numbers in many theatres of war, India was a member of the United Nations and had been a founder member of the League of Nations.

Mr Tamisuddin Khan's starred question No 349 of 19th February 1946

COMPLAINTS AGAINST CONTRACTORS OF AERATED WATER SUPPLY ON E SECTION OF N W RAILWAY

(a) and (b)—

(i) Faulty supply

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 15 | { | 8 | under reference with the contractor |
| | | 3 | contractor fined Rs 10, Rs 20 |
| | | | Rs 100, respectively |
| | | 1 | contractor warned. |
| | | 3 | complaints not substantiated |

(ii) Miscellaneous complaints, such as excess charges levied, balance of change not refunded, iceman refused to supply ice or aerated water, rates not shown or rates labels removed

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 53 | { | 17 | are under reference with the contractor |
| | | 16 | not substantiated |
| | | 9 | contractor asked to direct icemen not to charge in excess of fixed rates |
| | | 9 | contractor asked to have adequate supply of ice and aerated water |
| | | 3 | contractor asked to refund balance of change not refunded |
| | | 1 | iceman discharged |
| | | 1 | contractor warned. |

(iii) Icemen found carrying passengers without ticket or pass or not wearing uniform, etc

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 5 | { | 1 | iceman was discharged and fare recovered |
| | | 3 | fares were recovered and contractor warned |
| | | 1 | under reference with the contractor |

(iv) Theft on the part of iceman (stealing a bucket)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Contractor asked to discharge the iceman |
|---|--|

Prof V G Ranga's Supplementary question to Mr Vadlal Lallubhai's starred question No 350 of 19th February, 1946

NEW INDUSTRIES DURING WAR IN INDIA

The specific industries in respect of which an assurance of post-war protection against unfair competition from abroad was given by government during the war years are —

- 1 Bichromates
- 2 Steel Pipes and tubes upto a nominal bore of 4 inches
- 3 Aluminium
- 4 Calcium Chloride
- 5 Calcium Carbide
- 6 Starch
- 2 The Contact Sulphuric Acid Plants were allotted to the following four firms —
 - (i) Messrs Barahee Coke Co., Ltd, Kasurda (Bihar)
 - (ii) Messrs H. Mumtaz & Co., Calcutta
 - (iii) Messrs Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co., Ltd
 - (iv) Messrs Aml Starch Products Ltd, Ahmedabad
- The Caustic Soda Chlorine plants were allotted to the following three firms
 - (i) Messrs Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co. Ltd, Delhi
 - (ii) Messrs H. Mumtaz & Co., Calcutta
 - (iii) Messrs Ahmedabad Manufacturing & Calico Printing Co. Ltd, Ahmedabad

Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's starred question No 400 of 20th February, 1946

SERVICE SUPPLIES FROM AUSTRALIA

(c) and (d) (i) Out of the articles given in the list in reply to part (b) of the question, importation of following articles is permitted without a licence as such importation is covered by Open General Licence No. VII, published with this Department notification No 1 I T C / 46 dated the 22nd January 1946, as amended from time to time

- (1) Bearings
- (2) Industrial chemicals (excepting certain specified chemicals)

- (3) Clothing.
 (4) Mess equipment
 (ii) Import of some varieties of the following articles is also covered by the said Open General Licence —
 (5) Engineering equipment
 (6) Hardware, e.g., garden tools, metal lamps and parts, incandescent mantles and Zip fasteners.
 (7) Electrical trade goods, e.g., electrical insulations, certain electrical instruments, and electric exploders
 (8) Textiles, e.g., Artificial silk and fabrics and woollen fabrics
 (iii) The following statement gives particulars of the number of applications received for import licences for some of the remaining items and the total value of the licences issued

Number of applications received	Description of goods	Value licensed
		Rs
10	Electrical trade goods	54,108
18	Hardware . . .	1,63,256
1	Metals .	120
2	Motor vehicles . .	53,785
5	Textiles (mainly cotton)	15,020
24	Machine tools .	£8,000
		(Australian pounds)

- (iv) No applications for licences were received in respect of the items not mentioned above, viz., Canvasware and allied goods, Hessian, and ships

Pundit Thakurdas Bhargava's starred question No 401 of 20th February, 1946

BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

- (d) Government are aware of the famines which occurred during the last 15 years in South-East Punjab. The Bhakra Dam Project is under the consideration of the Punjab Government with a view to avert recurrence of famine or distress in this area

Mr Vadilal Lallubhai's starred question No 445 of 22nd February, 1946

WAR ORDERS PLACED WITH INDIAN FIRMS

- (a) The aggregate cost of total war orders placed with firms in India by the Department of Industries and Supplies and Department of Food, amounted to approximately Rs 1,220 crores. As Defence Services requirements (including those of His Majesty's Government and the U S A Forces) were ordinarily received in the form of bulked indents, it is not possible to furnish statistics representing separately the orders placed against the requirements of the Government of India, His Majesty's Government and the U S A Government

- (b) Information is not available as statistics have not been maintained in such a manner as to make possible the analysis required

- (c) Information is available only in respect of the orders placed by the Director General of Industries and Supplies, New Delhi, which is given below :—

Classification of firms	Total value of Orders (Approximately)	Proportion
	Rs (crores)	percent.
Indian	559.58	61
Non-Indian	357.76	39

- (d) For the reason given under (b) above, the required information is not available

Pundit Thakuradas Bhargava's starred question No 492 of 25th February, 1946

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

Statement showing the number of Government, Government aided and Municipal Schools, in each centrally administered area, where students were examined medically for health during 1945 and Number of Schools where the students were not so examined during that year

Name of Centrally Administered Areas	Total Number of Schools	Number of schools where students were medically examined in 1945	Number of schools where students not medically examined
1. Ajmer-Merwara	287	24	263
2. Delhi	360	246	114
3. Baluchistan	122	32	90
Total	769	302	467

Sri T. V. Satahopachari's starred question No 580 of 27th February, 1946

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON LITIGATION UNDER PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT re ILLEGAL DEDUCTIONS ON N. W. RAILWAY

Statement showing the expenditure incurred by the North Western Railway on

(i) refund of amounts illegally deducted from the wages of employees during the last three years;

(ii) payment of the delayed wages of employees during the same period, and

(iii) compensation awarded by the authority appointed under the Payment of wages Act against the Divisional Superintendents persons responsible for the payment of wages to the employees

Year	Expenditure incurred		
	Rs	A	P
(i)			
1943			Nd
1944		7	1 0
1945			Nd.
(ii)			
1943		72	5 0
1944		2	13 6
1945			Nd.
(iii)			
1943			
1944			Nd
1945			

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer's starred question of 6th March, 1946

COST OF STAFF AT KAMARAN QUARANTINE STATION

No 721(d) —A provision for a sum of Rs 4,458 was made in the budget for the year 1920-21 on account of pension Information regarding actual expenditure is, however, not available

CAPITAL AND RECURRING EXPENDITURE ON PILGRIMS AND STAFF AT KAMARAN

No. 722(c) —There are no military huts at Kamaran The question, therefore, does not arise.

SUPPLY OF WATER BY CONDENSERS AT KAMARAN

No 723(a) —No Water is very seldom supplied to H M's ships. Before the last war any water supplied was paid for by Royal Navy. During the war in one or two isolated cases some water was supplied to H M's ships in emergency but only in lieu of services rendered such as demolition of enemy sea mines, sitting and relaying buoys, and bringing food supplies from Aden.

(b) No prisoners of war were accommodated during both the wars.

A military garrison was established after occupation of the island in 1915. The expenditure was included in the sums advanced by the British and Indian Governments to meet deficits which were incurred in the administration of the Quarantine Station and recovered out of the revenue of the Quarantine Station according to Anglo-Dutch Agreement.

During the second war some detainees were accommodated in the barracks which had never been used by pilgrims. All expenses including repairs to the barracks were recovered from the Governments concerned and no expenses were charged to the Kamaran Quarantine Station Fund. Information regarding the amount recovered is not available.

Mr. C. P. Lawson's starred question No 776, of 8th March, 1946

(RETURN OF REQUISITIONED PROPERTY)

(b) The following was the position in respect of the three categories of buildings on the 28th February 1946

Command	Housing Accommodation			Office Accommodation			Storage Accommodation		
	Derequisitioned	Derequisitioning ordered and in process of being effected	To be derequisitioned	Derequisitioned	Derequisitioning ordered and in process of being effected	To be derequisitioned	Derequisitioned	Derequisitioning ordered and in process of being effected	To be derequisitioned
Northern Command	14	10	5			3			1
Central Command	8		132	..	1	2	1		
Southern Command	78	20	626	13	9	42	6	1	15
Eastern Command*	187	175	1793	31	11	141	31	20	99
Total	287	205	2556	46	21	188	38	21	
Percentage for India Command	9%	7%	84%	18%	8%	74%	22%	13%	86%

* Excluding 351 sub Area return for which is awaited.

Shri Sri Prakasa's starred question No. 779 of 8th March, 1946

CLASSIFICATION OF I. N. A. PRISONERS

(a) The names of the jailⁱⁿ which ex-I N A personnel sentenced by courts of law are held and the number in each are given below —

RAWALPINDI Central Jail	3
AGRA Central Jail	1
LUCKNOW Central Jail	5
MULTAN Central Jail	1
HARIPORE Central Jail	2
LAHORE Central Jail	3
MEERUT Central Jail	1
MULTAN District Jail	1
HISSAR District Jail	1

(b) These prisoners are classified "A", "B" or "C" according to the Prison rules of the Province in which they are imprisoned

(c) The number of prisoners under each class is as follows —

"A"	2
"B"	13
"C"	3

Mr Krishna Chandra Sharma's unstarred question No 105 of 11th March, 1946

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF AEROPLANES FROM U S A 's DISPOSALS Details of aircraft taken over from the American Foreign Liquidation Commission

Type of aircraft	Number	Carrying capacity	Total Price
Taylor Craft	3	2	\$ 1,214,800
Aeroneca	1	2	
Sentinel	64	2	
Harvard	31	2	
Noordyn	19	7	
Expeditor	4	5	
Dakota	82	24	
Kaydet	8	2	
Cornell	4	2	
Douglas	70	24	
Not known	1	Not known	
Total	287		

Details of hangars taken over.

Total No. of hangars taken over — 118.

Number of hangars actually erected	Number of erected hangars	Price
100 7	17 3	Not known.

NOTE.—Under the Lease/Lend agreement between the United State of America and India the Government of India is not required to pay anything for Lease/Lend Reciprocal Aid and surplus American property in India unless the proceeds exceed 50 million dollars

Mr Manu Subedar's starred questions of 12th March, 1946

MANUFACTURE OF RADIOS IN INDIA

No 808—Restrictions on the issue of wireless transmitting licenses for scientific or research purposes were withdrawn early in 1946. Since then a number of licenses have been issued to approved applicants, subject to the normal regulations.

RETURN ON OUTLAY ON AERODROMES IN INDIA

No 814(a) —The total capital outlay on aerodromes and equipment connected therewith in India upto 1945-46, is Rs. 2,61,62,500. The revenue realized during 1944-45 on this outlay amounted to Rs 1,51,451. The figures for 1945-46 are not yet complete but the total revenue realized upto the 30th September 1945, is Rs 93,682.

(b) The total estimated expenditure on Civil Aviation during 1945-46 and 1946-47 is as follows —

Year	Recurring Rs.	Capital Rs.
1945-46	40,81,000	12,76,000
1946-47	1,25,85,000	1,58,25,000

Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's starred question No. 843 of 12th March, 1946

DIRECTORATE OF OPEN CUT COAL MINING

(a)(i) The total gross expenditure upto 30th November 1945 was Rs 305 lakhs

(iii) Taking average life of the machinery as 3 years the estimated cost per ton of selected B grade coal loaded into wagons was Rs 19 at Jankunda and Jambad. This cost will increase by Rs 1 per ton if the interest on capital is also taken into account.

Information regarding cost of working other grades of coal at other collieries is not available at present.

(v) The information was supplied on 28th March 1946 in reply to part (a) of *Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's* starred question No 1355.

Mr Ahmed E H Jaffer's starred question No. 865 of 12th March, 1946

AMENDMENTS TO ANGLO-DUTCH AGREEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION

Haj Committee or bodies interested in pilgrim matters were not consulted before signing the Anglo-Dutch Agreement and the International Sanitary Convention 1926. Reasons for not doing so are not known.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pakwal's starred question No 951 of 13th March, 1946

QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR 'HINDUSTANI' NEWS EDITORSHIP AND OTHER POSTS

(a), (b) and (f) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the answer given in the Council of State on the 16th November, 1944, to the Honourable Raja Ynveraj Dutta Singh's Question No. 89.

(c), (d) and (g) A statement giving the information is attached. The staff knowing Urdu is encouraged to learn Hindi and vice versa. Elementary departmental examinations in these languages were held in 1940 and 1941. These examinations could not be held in subsequent years as the staff did not have time to prepare for them owing to pressure of work during the war. Steps are being taken to revive the system. The question of giving award for learning the second language is under the active consideration of Government.

REVISED STATEMENT

	Delhi Station of AIR	Bombay Station of AIR	Calcutta Station of AIR	Lahore Station of AIR	Lucknow Station of AIR	Peshawar Station of AIR	Central News Organisation	Total
(1) Total number of the members of the Hindustani staff	37	8	2	20	16	16	16	115
(2) Total number of members of the Hindustani staff possessing degrees or diplomas								
(a) in Hindi	2	1	2	3	3	1	2	14
(b) in Urdu	22	1		8	2	7	8	48
(c) In Hindi and Urdu both					.		1	1
(3) Number of the degrees or diploma holders in the Hindustani staff, who had as their first language								
(a) Hindi	3			3	3	1	3	13
(b) Urdu	21	1	2	8	2	7	8	49
(4) Number of posts held in Hindustani Programme Section by middle pass persons								
Hindi (1) Permanent				2	..		1	3
(2) Temporary	4	1		.	4	1	2	12
Urdu (1) Permanent	5	1	1	2	1	4	3	17
(2) Temporary	26	3	1	13	3	11	8	65
Hindi & Urdu both { (1) Permanent		1		1	2			4
{ (2) Temporary	1	..		.	5	..	2	8

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No. 125 of 14th March, 1946

SANCTIONED POSTS IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF RAILWAY STAFF

(a) and (b) I lay on the table two statements giving the required information

(c) The leave reserve employed is not below the sanctioned percentage, except in the case of Assistant Station Masters (Ordinary), Signallers and Train Examiners on the Ferozepore Division and Signallers on the Rawalpindi Division which is due to a shortage of staff. The administration is taking steps to make good the shortage in future recruitment.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
 Enclosure to General Manager, Lahore, letter No. 776-E/470 dated 6th April, 1946

ANNEXURE 'A'

Statement showing the sanctioned strength (including leave reserve) of certain categories of staff employed on Divisions

Designation	Grade	No. of posts Division-wise						
		Lahore	Delhi	Rawalpindi	Kasauli	Multan	Ferozepore	Quetta
Station Masters	Station Superintendent.	1	1		1			•
	VIII . . .	3	5+1 temporary	1	1			1
	VII . . .	2	1	2	6	2	1	1
	VI . . .	3+1 temporary	5	2	1+2 temporary	1	1	•
	V . . .	1	2	3				2
	IV . . .	2	1	2	1		1	2
	III	3	2	2	5+1 temporary	4	2	
Assistant Station Master	II	13+3 temporary	20	14	10+6 temporary	12	6	7+3 temporary
	I	119+2 temporary	152+4 temporary	92+8 temporary	136+8 temporary	104+1 temporary	127	42+8 temporary
	IV . . .	9+5 temporary	18+4 temporary	6	15	1	3	• 2+1 temporary

Designation	Grade	No. of posts Division-wise						
		Lahore	Delhi	Rawalpindi	Karachi	Multan	Ferozepore	Quetta
Parcel Clerks	V	1	1					
	IV		1+2 temporary	1 temporary	1			
	III	3+3 temporary	3+5 temporary	1 temporary	2 temporary	1	1	1
	II	42+12 temporary	41+9 temporary	16	18	4	4	3
	I	117+48 temporary	141+71 temporary	42+16 temporary	35+25 temporary	14+11 temporary	9	6+5 temporary
	V	1 temporary	1					..
Booking Clerks	IV	1+1 temporary			1 temporary			..
	III	2+4 temporary	8+2 temporary	1+1 temporary	2+1 temporary	2	3	
	II	63-15 temporary	49+5 temporary	37	36+2 temporary	28+5 temporary	26	5
	I	152+84 temporary	162+34 temporary	109+36 temporary	78+31 temporary	74+15 temporary	89	8+9 temporary
	V		1					
	IV		9+1 temporary	2	3	2		
Trans Clerks	III	4+1 temporary						
	II	27+9 temporary	48+17 temporary	12	36+13 temporary	12		4

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Statement showing the percentage of leave reserve sanctioned and that actually employed

Category of staff	Lahore		Delhi		Rawalpindi		Karachi		Multan		Ferozepore		Quetta		Remarks
	Percentage of leave reserve actually sanctioned	Percentage of leave reserve employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Percentage of leave reserve employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Percentage of leave reserve employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Percentage of leave reserve actually employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Percentage of leave reserve actually employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Percentage of leave reserve actually employed	Percentage of leave reserve sanctioned	Percentage of leave reserve actually employed	
1 Station Master	20	21	25	20	20	20	33	25	25	25	25	25	34	75	(a) Due to shortage of staff
Asst and Station Masters ordinary	25	27.4	25	25	20	20	18	18	18	18	18	18	20	20	
2 Signallers	25	28.9	22	22	20	20	17	17	15	15	25	9	20	20	
3 Goods Clerks	15	17.9	15	15	10	10	15	15	15	15	10	10	15	15	
4 Parcel Clerks	15	17.9	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
5 Booking Clerks	15	17.9	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
6 Train Clerks	15	17.1	15	15	10	10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
7 Electric and Carriage Clerks	10	1.5	10	10	8	8	10	10	10	10	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	(b) Necessary provision made in shed Clerks.
8 Ticket Collectors	15	17.1	15	15	10	10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
9 Guards	25	(c) 24	15	15	10	10	12.4	12.4	25	25	20	20	10	10	(c) Shortage negligible.
10. Train Examiners	10	10.4	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	13	10	10	10	

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[28TH OCT. 1946]

*Seth Sukhdev's unstarred questions of 14th March, 1946***SELECTION OF RAILWAY FOOD INSPECTORS AT KARACHI**

No 126—(a) to (c) The reply is in the affirmative

(d) The reply is in the negative

(e) No, the subject of the correspondence between the Divisional Personnel Officer, Karachi, and the Senior Assistant, Personnel, was in regard to the propriety of appointing an Assistant Food Inspector as Food Inspector

(f) The officers holding these appointments in January 1946 were Muslims

(g) As non observance of the rules is not right as soon as it comes to notice, Government do not consider any special steps are necessary

SELECTION FOR POSTS ON N W RAILWAY

No 982—(a) Selections on the N W Railway are made in accordance with the provisions of the rules contained in Appendices II and II-A of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the library of the House

(b) and (d) Government are informed that the post of Food Inspector on the N W Railway is ordinarily filled by posting persons, in order of merit from the list of persons approved for appointment as Assistant Staff Writers. The post has so far not been declared a selection post but it was erroneously treated as such by the Divisional Superintendent at Karachi, and a selection was held in January 1946 at which some of the persons eligible for promotion as Food Inspector were not called up, while some of those not eligible had been considered. The error was in the meantime noticed by the Divisional Superintendent and accordingly the result of the selection was not announced

(c) The reply to the first position is in the affirmative

(e) I would refer the Honble Member to rule 6(c) of Appendix II A to the State Railway Establishment Code Vol I a copy of which is available in the library of the House, and would remind him that as the post had not been declared a selection post, a reference to the General Manager did not arise

(f) Does not arise

Shri D P Karmathkar's starred question No 964 of 14th March, 1946

DEATH OF MR XAVIER IN POONA MAIL

(b) There was no light in the compartment in question but one was provided at the request made by the other passengers after Mr Xavier's death

Shri Satya Varan Sinha's unstarred question No 131 of 14th March, 1946

TRANSFER OF E I RAILWAY CLAIMS OFFICE FROM BENARES TO CALCUTTA

(b)(i) Statement showing the number of claims dealt with in the Benares Office as well as in the 'D' Section in Calcutta, and the average time taken to settle a claim for a period of two years from August 1944 to July 1946

	Benares Office	"D" Section Calcutta.
(i) Number of claims settled from August 1944 to July 1945	34,452	7,720
(ii) Average number of days taken to settle a claim for the same period	24	22
(iii) Number of claims settled from August 1945 to July 1946	38,095	7,247
(iv) Average number of days taken to settle a claim for the same period	23	18

Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's supplementary question to Mr Muhammad Nauman's starred question No 1111 of 20th March, 1946

CONTROL PRICES OF SILK CLOTH AND ARTIFICIAL SILK CLOTH MANUFACTURED IN INDIA

The maximum selling prices of raw silk were fixed on the 30th June 1945 and those of the Indian pure silk fabrics and spun silk yarn on the 14th July 1945

2 The control on silk and Artificial Silk yarn and fabrics has been withdrawn with effect from 17th August 1946

Mr Madandhari Singh's starred question No 1119 of the 20th March, 1946

TENDERS FOR WORK IN E I RAILWAY LOCO RUNNING SHEDS

(a) Tenders are called for through the press by the Divisional Superintendents concerned. All such tenders received are considered by "Tender Committees" of which an Accounts Officer is invariably a member

(b) Either the Divisional Superintendent or the General Manager according to the annual value of the contract

(c) Gaya 3, Moghalsara 3, Jhajha 2

(d) The lowest tenders were not always accepted for the following reasons —

(i) Unsatisfactory work of the lowest tenderers at other sheds,

(ii) The lowest tenderers were unknown. As the administration was unable to ascertain their capabilities or financial reliability it was undesirable to entrust the work to them,

(iii) The tenderers were found to be petty contractors with no previous experience and the rates quoted were so low that they could not have been sufficiently remunerative to ensure efficiency of service and fair dealings with labour employed

Mr Mann Subedar's starred question No 1120 of 20th March, 1946

REVIVAL OF OLD INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT

(a) The strength of the gazetted and non-gazetted staff in the Department of Industries and Supplies on the 1st September, 1945, and 1st February, 1946, was as follows —

Strength on 1st September 1945		Strength on 1st February 1946	
Gazetted	Non-gazetted	Gazetted	Non-gazetted
2,052	38,826	1,383	30,281

(b) The total establishment charges amounted to Rupees 37,00,320 for the month of August, 1945, i.e., payable on 1st of September, 1945 and to Rupees 34,42,135 for the month of January, 1946, i.e., payable on 1st February 1946

Khan Abdul Ghami Khan's starred question No 1123 of 20th March, 1946

CONSUMPTION OF CLOTH IN N W F PROVINCE

(a) Statistics are not available

(b) The amount of cloth supplied to Agencies is as follows —

Agency	Bales per month
Khyber	212
Mulakand	900
Kurram	132
Mohmand Tribal Territory	108
North Waziristan	106
South Waziristan	106

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No 145 of 20th March, 1946

SELECTION OF FOOD INSPECTORS IN KARACHI DIVISION, N. W. RAILWAY

(a) Yes

(b), (d) and (e) I would refer the Hon'ble Member to the reply laid on the Table today, to parts (b) and (d) of his starred question No 982

(c) Yes, but such staff are eligible for confirmation against vacancies of Assistant Staff Warden in order of their seniority

(f) The railway administration has already issued instructions to the Divisional Superintendent concerned

(g) The reply is in the negative

Sri A K Menon's unstarred question No 148 of 20th March, 1946

RULES FOR FILLING OF SELECTION POSTS ON STATE MANAGED RAILWAYS

I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the non-gazetted posts treated as selection posts on all the Indian Government Railways. The pay shown in each case is the revised scale of pay, except in the case of the O T Railway, which did not introduce revised scales of pay for such staff

Dr Ziauddin Ahmad's starred question No 1195 of 25th March, 1946

PAYMENT TO COOLIES FOR HANDLING OF PARCELS AT HOWRAH STATION

It has been ascertained that in order that the full benefit of the subsidy is passed on to the licensed coolies, the contractor is authorised to charge from each coolie a reduced licence fee of Rs 3 p m only, instead of Rs 4 p m, which he would ordinarily have recovered. For the Honourable Member's information I would state that in order to get greater uniformity in the procedure on Railways, a matter to which I referred in reply to Supplementaries, it is proposed to insert in the standard form of agreement for Government Railways a clause to read as follows —

"The contractor will be paid by the Railway Administration for all work required to be done by coolies on behalf of the Railway Administration and detailed in Schedule II annexed to this agreement at the rate of _____ per month or as determined by the Railway Administration from time to time. The Contractor shall distribute the whole sum so paid by the Administration amongst the coolies required to do the said railway work according to the work performed by them, keep a proper record of such payment, viz., a register or Acquittance Roll containing the signature or thumb impressions of each coolie for the payment received by him from the contractor, and submit a certificate every month to the Railway Administration of his having done so. The contractor shall see that for doing the work detailed in Schedule II, no coolie is employed more than _____ hours per day."

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava's starred question No 1251 of 27th March, 1946

FULFILMENT OF AIMS OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

(a) There is no record of any such promise having been given, or statement having been made by Mr (now Sir Evan) Jenkins

Sri A. K Menon's starred question No 1272 of 27th March, 1946

PURCHASE OF NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES AS CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR ISSUE OF PERMITS FOR SUGAR, KEROSENE AND RICE

(a) and (b) Enquiries have been made from the Government of Madras who state that no such complaints were made to them. Allegations to that effect appeared in a newspaper which the writer failed to substantiate when asked to do so and an enquiry held by the collector led to the conclusion that the allegations were baseless

(c) No

Sri A K Menon's starred questions of 27th March, 1946

AWARD BY SPECIAL ARBITRATION COURT *RE* COMPENSATION FOR BETELNUT GARDENS IN SOUTH KANARA

No 1315—(a) 201 cases in all were referred to the Special Arbitrator out of a total of 1148 awards made. Of these 201 cases, 37 were referred because the whereabouts of the ryots concerned were not known or because the cases involved apportionment of compensation among several claimants. The number of cases in which there was actual disagreement with regard to the amount of compensation was therefore only 164, i.e., 14 per cent of the total.

(b) The total amount of annual recurring compensation originally fixed by Government in these disputed cases was Rs 47 014-12-0

(c) Rs 82,341-14 3

(d) No definite observation to this effect was made by the Special Arbitrator. The yield estimated was generally accepted as correct. The main point of difference was about the income from the other fruit trees in areca gardens. According to the practice obtaining in South Kanara, the rental of an areca garden includes the income and rental of the other fruit trees in the garden and no separate rent is fixed for these trees. This fact is borne out by the lease deeds also. The court of the Special Arbitrator however allowed separate rentals for these trees.

COMPENSATION FOR ACQUIRED LAND IN SOUTH KANARA

No 1316 (a) In 947 out of the 1148 awards made by the Special Deputy Collectors in the South Kanara District the compensation fixed by Government was accepted and the necessary agreements executed by the ryots concerned without objection. The remaining 201 cases (i.e. 18 per cent of the total number) were referred to arbitration is explained in the answer to question 1315 (a).

(b) Of the persons who filed objection petitions, only one desired payment of compensation in advance. In this case the claim had to be rejected because the claimant was not the sole and undisputed person entitled to payment.

(c) No

(d) Yes, two such representations were received. The suggestion was that even in cases which did not go up to the Court of the Special Arbitrator, the compensation fixed should be revised and enhanced on the basis of the Arbitrator's award. This is not possible as there is no provision for a revision of the amount of compensation awarded in cases which were not referred to the arbitrator and which were accepted voluntarily by the parties concerned. Offer notices were served by January 1945 and although there was ample time to do so, no objection was raised.

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES ON DE-REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES

No 1317—(a) The procedure for assessing damage to properties when they are derequisitioned is laid down in Section 19 of the Defence of India Act, 1939.

(i) When property is derequisitioned an endeavour is made in the first instance to reach an agreement with the owner as to the amount of the terminal compensation. This procedure being in accordance with clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Act and in these negotiations Government is normally represented by the Collector of the District in which the property is situated. For the purpose of the negotiations the Collector, usually through his revenue staff, estimates what in his opinion is a fair amount of compensation.

(ii) If the amount of compensation cannot be fixed by agreement, the matter is referred to arbitration in accordance with clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Act, which provides that the arbitrator shall be a person who is qualified for appointment as a judge of the High Court and, in particular cases, the Government may nominate an assessor having expert knowledge of the property to assist the arbitrator, in which even the owner is also entitled to nominate an assessor for the same purpose.

(b) Yes

(c) As stated in the answer to part (a) of the question, provision for this already exists in the Defence of India Act.

Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's starred question No 1355 of 28th March, 1946

NAMES OF MINES AND EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT IN WORKING OPEN-CUT COAL MINING PLANTS

(b) The information asked for in the last portion of part (b) is contained in the reply to part (a) (iii) of starred question No. 843, laid on the table of the House.

(c) The detailed information promised is given below —

Sites	Amount realisable for		Total
	(1) Coal Raising	(2) Removal of overburden	
	Rs	Rs	Rs
1 Bokaro	1,67,080	7,79,013	9,46,093
Earthwork at Bokaro			
2 Goda Nullah Dum Railway Embankment		28 28½	50,486
		24,202	
3 Sirka		2,47,358	2,47,358
Blasting hard rock at Sirka		2,271	2,271
4 Junkunda " adjustment of opening locks	10 9,809		10,93,809
5 Teetalmura	1,68,825		4 68,825
6 Puro Jambud (after deducting cost of work done by contractor)	3,95,896		3,95,896
7 Selected Jambud (after deducting cost of work done by contractor)	2,73,314		2,73,314
Total			34,78,055

Estimated credit for incomplete work is Rs. 5,00,000 to Rs. 6,00,000

Total approximate amount realisable—Rs. 40,00,000

Mr Krishna Chandra Sharma's starred question No 1407 of 29th March, 1946

ALLOTMENT OF CATTLE BYRES IN NEW DELHI TO GOWALAS

(a) The information asked for is as follows

Total Number of stalls in various cow byres in New Delhi	Number of stalls rented to ministerial staff of the Government of India and its attached offices	Number of stalls rented to inferior staff of the Government of India and its attached offices	Number of stalls rented to Municipal employees	Balance left at the disposal of contractor for renting to gowas or keeping his own cattle
1	2	3	4	5
441	225	110	47	59*

* As no applications were received for these stalls they were allotted by the contractors themselves according to the terms of their lease

(b) No The question of erecting additional byres is under consideration

In accordance with the existing practice, the stalls are allotted to Government servants and Municipal employees in order of priority with reference to their date of application, and surplus stalls, if any are left with the contractor for keeping his own cattle, or for allotment to private individuals, i.e., gowalas, etc

(c) This is not borne out by the details of actual allotments for the current year

(d) Yes The procedure in vogue for the allotment of stalls by the Committee is strictly in accordance with this principle

(e) The answer to the first part is in the negative The number of stalls allotted to ministerial staff has steadily increased from 67 in 1941 to 225 in 1945 and that of stalls allotted to gowalas has decreased from 357 in 1941 to 50 in 1945 The second part of the question does not arise.

Sjt B S Hiray's starred question No 1421 of 29th March 1946

**PERMISSION TO BUILD MORE SUGAR FACTORIES IN CERTAIN CANAL IRRIGATED
DECCAN AREA OF BOMBAY PROVINCE**

- (a) Yes
- (b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The second part does not arise.
- (c) 3,76,123 acres in 1943-44, out of this 24,380 acres were utilised by Sugar Factories for their sugai cane crops.
- (d) The Government of Bombay who have been consulted do not propose to allow the construction of more Sugai Factories in this area. Under the existing policy of the Provincial Government only 35 per cent of the available supply in each storage is reserved for industrial purposes inclusive of sugar factory irrigation. The remaining 65 per cent is reserved for agricultural purposes. 35 per cent of the available supply from the various storages reserved for industrial purposes has been almost fully utilised under the existing guarantees. There is therefore hardly any scope for establishment of new sugai factories. A proposal to sanction new sugai factories using water from rivers, drains and nallas, supplemented to a very small extent by canal water, is however under consideration of the Government of Bombay.

Sri R Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No 1433 of 1st April 1946

REPATRIATION AND TRIAL OF I N A OFFICERS IN SINGAPORE CAMP

Attention is invited to the reply given on the 15th April 1946 to Question No 1785

Mr B P Jhunjhunwala's starred question No 1448 of 1st April, 1946

**NUMBER AND QUALIFICATIONS OF URDU AND HINDI PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS IN ALL
INDIA RADIO**

(a) Several Programme Assistants know and use more than one Indian Language. The total number of Programme Assistants is 95. The following statement shows the number of Programme Assistants and the languages they know and use.

Number of Programme Assistants	Language
38	Urdu
31	Hindi
19	Tamil
18	Bengali
8	Telugu
7	Gujerati
7	Punjabi
5	Marathi
3	Pushto
2	Malayalam
2	Kannada
1	Oriya
1	Assamese

(b) Fees for talks range from Rs 10 to Rs 100 depending mainly on the duration of the talk, the amount of work required for its preparation and the qualifications of the talkers. There is no difference in remuneration on account of the language of the talk.

(c) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table of the House.

(d) No. The remaining parts of the question do not arise.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

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Statement showing the number of persons other than inferior Staff employed in various Offices of AIR and the Provinces to which they belong

Station/Office	European and other foreign nationalities	Bengal	Bombay	Madras	Punjab	U P	C P	Bihar	Orissa	Sind	N.-W. F. P.	Assam	Delhi	Indian States	Total
Delhi Station		6		10	66	19		2			2	1	23	3	132
Bombay Station		1	57	12	5	1	3	1			1			2	83
Calcutta Station	1	59		3	1	7			1			1			73
Madras Station				69	1									10	80
Lahore Station		1		1	38	4	1			1			1		67
Lucknow Station		4			7	50	1	1			1				64
Trichinopoly Station				53										11	64
Dacca Station		51	1					1							53
Peshawar Station		1			18	2				1	23		1		48
C. N. O. . . .	36	11	12	35	65	42	1	3			11		30	1	240
Office of the Indian Listener		5			14	9							3	1	32
Installation Department		6	1	5	19	14						1	11	5	62
H. P Transmitters		6	3	13	12	7	1	1		1			3	11	60
Research Department		2		4	6	9							1		22
Monitoring Office	1	1			39	3		2		1	1		7	6	63
Headquarters	1	9	4	17	33	32		1		3	2		12	2	116
Total	39	183	80	224	344	199	7	14	1	7	41	3	92	52	1366

Mr B B Varma's starred question No. 1496 of 2nd April, 1946

STATE RAILWAY GRADES OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR OFFICERS OF O T RAILWAY

Statement showing the average mileage of Assistant Engineers' jurisdiction on the Indian Government Railways

Railway	Mileage		Remarks
	Route	Track	
O T Railway	188.5	191	
G I P Railway	145	238 (including sidings)	
B A Railway	145	161	
B N Railway	140	197 (including sidings)	
S I Railway	147	183	
E I Railway	127	234 (including sidings)	
M & S M Railway	Broad Gauge	160	
	Metre Gauge	206	
B B & C I Railway	Broad Gauge	169.367	
	Metre Gauge	164.8	
*N W Railway	*170	*193	* This excludes essentially works subdivisions such as Delhi, Karachi and Lahore

See Satyapriya Banerjee's starred question No. 1525 of 3rd April, 1946

GODOWNS FOR STORING RICE IN CERTAIN BENGAL DISTRICTS

The Bengal Government have informed as follows —

(a) and (c) The reply is in the negative

(b) Like all concrete floors, the floors in the godowns in question were damp for a short time after construction. Small leaks also occurred in the roofs of some of the godowns and flanking in some of the earlier constructions was also found to be defective owing to the godowns having been rapidly constructed at a time when better quality material was not available.

(d) Necessary improvement have already been effected

Shri R Venkatasubba Reddhar's starred question No 1547 of 4th April, 1946

TERMINATION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS' SERVICE IN SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES

Number of officers drawing Rs 500 and above in the Departments of the Government of India and their attached offices whose services have been terminated during the financial year ending the 31st March 1946

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Shri Mohan Lal Saksena's starred question No 1566 of 4th April, 1946

REQUISITIONING OF ANAND PARBAT (RAMJAS COLLEGE AND SCHOOL) ESTATE, DELHI, BY GOVERNMENT

An effort was made to collect the information but it was found that the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

Pandit Govind Malaviya's starred questions of 4th April, 1946

TALKS IN HINDI AND URDU FROM VARIOUS STATIONS OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

No 1570 (a) —Statement showing number of talks in (i) Hindi (ii) Urdu Broadcast from AIR stations during November and December 1945

Station	Number of Hindi Talks	Number of Urdu Talks
Delhi	16	19
Bombay	3	4
Lahore	7	48
Lucknow	30	28
Peshawar	2	60

(b) Statement showing number of talks during November and December 1945 Broadcast by Outsiders

Station	Number of talks broadcast by outsiders	
	Hindi	Urdu
Delhi	16	11
Bombay	3	4
Lahore	7	46
Lucknow	27	28
Peshawar	2	56

HINDI AND URDU QUALIFICATIONS OF HINDUSTANI TRANSLATORS IN ALL-INDIA RADIO, DELHI

No 1572 (b) —Statement of qualifications of Script-writers at the Delhi Lucknow and Lahore Stations of All-India Radio

Name of Artist	Special Urdu, Hindi qualifications	Nature of scripts written
<i>Delhi</i>		
1 Chiranjib Lal	Read Hindi and Sanskrit upto B A	{ 1 "Features" for talks, music and Rural sections 2 Short stories for Children's programmes 1 "Features" and songs for programmes on Hindu religious festivals and anniversaries of Hindi writers. 2 Hindi notes on outstanding programme items for Sarang
2 Satya Dev Sharma, B A	Do	
3 Balbir Singh Tyagi	Read Hindi up to B A	
4 Mohd Muza	Nil	{ 1 Dialogues and "Features" for women and Children's programmes. 1 Dialogues or Trilogues on current events in the general and Rural programmes 2 Translates Weather bulletins
5 Pervez Shami	Nil	
6 Mustar Hashmi	Nil	1 Hindustani News bulletins for Troops programmes
7 Qasim Rampuri	Munshi Fazil (Persian) and Adeeb Fazil (Urdu)	1 Feature programme, discussions and plays, etc., for the Educational and general programmes
8 Ahmullah	B A in Urdu	1 Preparing daily news bulletins for Troops programmes
9 Sultan Ahmed Rind	Adeeb Fazil (Urdu) knows Hindi	1 Features programmes, dialogues, short plays, and replies to listener's letters for Rural programmes
10 Muzaffar Shah Khan	Read Urdu up to B A	1 Compiling and translating of news items for Rural programmes

Name of Artist	Special Urdu, Hindi qualifications	Nature of scripts written
<i>Lucknow</i>		
1 J N Srivastava	Salutalankar in Hindi	1 Plays, features and songs in Hindi
2 Chandra Bhushan	<i>Nil</i>	1 Play, features and songs in Hindi and Urdu
3 Suresh Chandra	<i>Nil</i>	1 Play, features and dialogues in Hindi and Urdu
4 Behzad Lakhnavi	<i>Nil</i>	1 Plays, features and songs in Urdu
5 Salam Mubshir Ikhra	<i>Nil</i>	1 Plays, features and songs in Urdu
6 Fatma Begum	Munshi Farid in Persian	1 Plays, features and stories in Urdu
<i>Lahor</i>		
1 Mumtaz Mufti	<i>Nil</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Plays and features General 2 Short stories, Programmes, and School Broadcasts
2 Farooq Ali Khali	<i>Nil</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Skits and features 2 Stories 3 Variety programmes 4 Scripts of replies to letters from children
3 Amin ur Rehman	<i>Nil</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Plays & features 2 Script of news for Women's prog. 3 Replies to listeners' letters in Women's programmes
4 Bilwari Ganga	<i>Nil</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Translation of manuscript from Hindustani to English 2 Replies to listeners' letters about General programmes 3 Plays in Urdu and Punjabi

Seth Sukhdev's unstarred question No 177 of 4th April, 1946

EXTENSION IN SERVICE TO GAZETTED OFFICERS UNDER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

(a) The number of gazetted officers employed under the Central Government in various Departments who were under extension of service was 60

Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanjal's starred question No 1655 of 9th April, 1946

PUNISHMENT TO CERTAIN I N A MEN

The following statement answers the points made by Honorable Members in connection with the trial of 15 members of No 4 Indian Coast Battery I A by Summary General Court Martial between the 6th July and 5th August 1943

Points Made	Answers
(a) That some of the prosecution witnesses admitted that they had been tutored	(a) Yes, but the Court was fully aware of this and bore it in mind when weighing the evidence and, in convicting the accused, took into consideration only such evidence as was worthy of acceptance
(b) That copies of the proceedings were refused to the accused	(b) No there is nothing on record to show that any of the accused made a request under IAA Rule 133 for copies of the proceedings, or that such a request, having been made, was refused
(c) That the Lawyer whom they selected for the defence was not allowed to appear	(c) Under Rule 82 (b) of the Indian Army Act Rules, permission for the appearance of civilian counsel was refused as trial was by Summary General Court Martial. It is, however, pointed out that the accused were defended by an Indian Commissioned Officer who in civil life was an advocate of a Presidency High Court, assisted by two other officers with legal experience.

- (d) That the defence witnesses were afterwards prosecuted and ill-treated
- (e) That the relatives of the accused were not informed of the charges
- (f) That the ICO who defended the accused was prosecuted after the proceedings
- (g) That the correspondence between Mr D M Sen, an Advocate of Calcutta, and the Army authorities should be released to the House
- (h) That the proceedings of the Summary General Court Martial Trial should be placed on the table of the House
- (d) Eight of the defence witnesses were tried and convicted for perjury and were sentenced to dismissal and imprisonment. There is no evidence to show that they were ill-treated
- (e) Yes, but it is not incumbent on the authorities to do so, nor has it been the practice in the past
- (f) There is nothing on record to show that this officer was prosecuted as alleged
- (g) All the correspondence available in this connection have now been obtained from the military authorities and copy is placed on the table
- (h) It has not been the practice here nor in the U K where we have sought for precedents, to lay before the House Court Martial proceedings, except for very special reasons, as this would tend to make the House a Court of Appeal from the decisions of Courts Martial which would be most undesirable. In this particular case 9 out of the 12 sentences being death sentences, are irrevocable and cannot be affected by further enquiry. Moreover, there is in fact, nothing in the Court Martial proceedings relevant to the allegations made by Hon'ble Members. It is therefore, considered that there are no special reasons in this case which justify making an exception to the general convention, established both in the U K and in India against placing the proceedings of Courts Martial before the House

Copy of letter dated 19th June 1943 from D M Sen addressed to Capt G C Watkins, 106 L of C Area

Dear Sir,

I have come back to Calcutta but my anxiety regarding the case against my client Mr N M Mukherjee, Havildar 4th Indian Coast Battery No 45993, has not ceased. I was told by Major G Baker, D A A G A Branch 105 L of C Area to whom you referred me that final decision regarding Mukherjee's case would not be taken before 4 or 5 days. I am therefore writing to you to be good enough to let me know if Mukherjee has been charged at all. If so, he may be given facilities to send the copies of the charges and evidence to me as soon as they are given to him so that they may reach me in time.

Will you kindly allow Mukherjee to write to me for such advice as he may seek to have in the matter?

I would also request you to let me know on which date the trial has been fixed to begin.

I am enclosing a letter to Mukherjee which he kind enough to send to him.

An early reply to my letter will be very much appreciated.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) D M SEN Advocate

Copy of Telegram dated 25th June 1943 from D M Sen addressed to Major G Baker, D A A G A Branch 105 L of C Area

Wire information case against N M Mukherjee 4th Indian Coast Battery No 45993 if charged date trial begins solicit interview with him reply

Answered by reply paid telegram handed to G III at 15 20 hrs 26/6. Accused has sent telegram to relation stating no repeat no civilian advocate required

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's starred question No 1691 of 11th April, 1946

NEED FOR COVERED RAILWAY PLATFORMS AND OVERBRIDGES AT LEVEL CROSSINGS AT INDORE, B B. & C I RAILWAY

The total receipts at Indore Railway Station, for the year ended 31st March 1946, amounted to Rs. 76,93,206

Choudhury Md Abid Hussam's stated question No 1714 of 11th April, 1946

RECONSTRUCTION OF KATIHAR JUNCTION ON B A AND O T RAILWAYS ON ONE SIDE OF TOWN

(a) Katihar station is situated in the middle of the yard and is surrounded by railway lines

(b) Foot-overbridges and road level crossings exist for the use of passengers and there is no need for them to cross the tracks otherwise, when approaching or leaving the station. The booking office is situated on the west side of the station. A proposal for constructing a new booking office on the east side to facilitate booking of passengers, luggage and parcels is also under consideration.

(c) The existing station building and offices are not considered insufficient for the purpose of work of the Railway staff.

(d) The necessity for the construction of a new station building on one side of the town has not arisen. As already stated, the proposal for constructing a booking luggage and parcels office for passengers on the side of the town is under consideration.

Shri Sri Prakash's stated question No 1722 of 11th April, 1946

GAIL-MEN AT LEVEL CROSSINGS BETWEEN ALLAHABAD AND GHAZIPIUR ON O T RAILWAY

(a) The answer is in the negative but there are a number of level crossings without gates which are unattended at loads over which traffic is light.

(b) No such cases have come to the notice of the Railway Administration.

(c) The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative. All level crossings on the main Provincial roads are manned either with 3 men or with 2 men.

(d) Proper arrangement exists. The classification of level crossings is originally fixed in consultation with the Local Government and is revised from time to time, after a census of road and rail traffic is taken.

Mr B B Varma's stated question No 1733 of 11th April, 1946

SUPPLY OF DHOTIES AND SAREES TO BIHAR

A Statement showing the supply of Standard Cloth Dhoties and Sarees to all Provinces and to Bihar in 1944-45 and 1945-46 —

	1944-45 (in yards)		1945-46 (in yards)	
	Dhoties	Sarees	Dhoties	Sarees
All Provinces (excluding Bihar)	64,462,464	53,974,552	52,432,829	49,326,563
Bihar	10,152,740	19,932,327	14,077,134	10,886,384

B Statement showing the supply of non standard cloth Dhoties and Sarees to all Provinces and to Bihar during the period March 1945 to March 1946 —

	Dhoties (in yards)	Sarees (in yards)
All Provinces (excluding Bihar)	112,360,500	72,858,000
Bihar	29,568,000	13,285,500

Sgt Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury's unstarred question No 207 of 11th April, 1946

CREATION OF ASSAM POSTAL CIRCLE AND CERTAIN OFFICERS' POSTS

(c) Statement showing (1) the number of posts sanctioned for Superintendents and Gazetted Officers, and (2) the number of selection grade and time scale Supervisors, in the years 1945 and 1946-47

Superintendents of P O. & R.M.S. and other Gazetted posts		Selection grade and time scale Supervisors	
1945-46	1946-47	1945-46	1946-47
73	24	277	173

Sgt Seth Damodar Swaroop's starred question No 1797 of 15th April, 1946

**EXEMPTION TO LANDSDOWNE CANTONMENT BOARD AGAINST DEFENCE OF INDIA
RULES CONTROLLING HOUSE RENT**

(a) The rents of shops and stalls, have not been enhanced by the Cantonment Board, Lansdowne. They are the highest bids actually received in public auction held in accordance with section 200(i) of the Cantonments Act 1924. In certain cases stalls have been auctioned for 1946-47 at rents much lower than those obtained in previous years.

(b) In view of my reply to Part (a) above the question of hardship does not arise. As regards the operation of the Defence of India Rules, the power to promulgate Rent Control Orders under those Rules rests with the Provincial Government, and no such orders have been issued by the U. P. Government for Garhwal District.

Shri D. P. Karmachari's starred question No 1787 of 15th April, 1946

**INCONVENIENCE DUE TO INSTRUCTION TO GROWERS TO SELL TOBACCO BEFORE
FEBRUARY**

(a), (b) and (c) Such an announcement was made through the misreading of an instruction by an inexperienced officer. The matter was however brought to the timely notice of his senior officer who immediately took steps to have the announcement countermanded and to apprise the grower-curers of the correct position with the result that no financial loss was experienced by them.

*Prof N. G. Ranga's Supplementary question to Shri Mohan Lal Saxena's
starred question No 1849 of 16th April 1946*

**REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO MR ANAND SINGH OF GANESHGUNJ, NAWAIYA,
LUCKNOW TO START INDIA'S VOICE**

(1) Hand made paper is excluded from the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1945 other than those relating to newspapers and periodicals. In other words, while there is no restriction on the consumption of hand made paper for printing and publishing books, directories, Annuals, etc., Newspapers and periodicals cannot be started on hand-made paper without securing the permission of the Government of India under clause 9(a) of the said order.

(2) Permission to print periodicals on hand-made papers has been given in a few special cases but such permission could not be a general rule. The Supplies of hand-made paper are limited and there would be an obvious pressure on mill made paper with consequent difficulties.

Miss Maniben Kara's starred questions of 17 April, 1946

**COST TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF SPECIAL TRAIN FOR MR M. K. GANDHI TO
PARTICIPATE IN TALKS WITH CABINET MISSION**

No 1951 (a)—The cost of running a special train for Mr Gandhi's journey to Delhi to meet the Cabinet Delegation and the Viceroy was borne by the Government of India in the same way as were the travelling expenses of the other leaders who were invited to Delhi for the same purpose.

(b) The cost was Rs 8,684-8-4.

COST TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF SPECIAL TRAIN FOR MR M K GANDHI TO PARTICIPATE IN SIMLA CONFERENCE

No 1952 (a) and (b) —No special train was run for Mr Gandhi's journey to Simla in June 1945. c

Babu Ram Narayan Singh's starred question No 1956 of 17th April, 1946

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE DELHI MILK CONTROL ORDER

The total number of prosecution for violating the provisions of the Delhi Milk Control Order is—232, and

The amount of fine realised is—Rs 35,435

Shri D P Karmarkar's unstarred question No 228 of 17th April 1946

WANT OF GOOD CATTLE AND HANDICAP IN GROWING FOODGRAIN IN NORTH KANARA DISTRICT IN BOMBAY

(a) According to the information supplied by the Provincial Government, the Kanara Cattle are generally of poor constitution due chiefly to climatic conditions including the fact that though there is adequate grazing the grass is not very nutritious. This does handicap the agriculturist in growing food crops to a certain extent in as much as the unit of cultivated area per pair of cattle is smaller in Kanara than in other parts of the province.

(b) The Provincial Government are considering improvement of grasses and introduction of wider use of concentrates. Research work has been taken up on grass land improvement and on predigestion of rice straw with chemical agent to improve its nutritive value. Taguri loans for purchases of good cattle are freely sanctioned. Improvement of local cattle is being attempted by importing good variety of breeding bulls. The cattle Farm at Taguri is doing work on the breeding and improvement of Dangri and Nimer cattle with special reference to coastal areas including Kanara.

(c) Yes. The cotton seed imported is given mainly to buffaloes in Milk.

(d) Supply of cotton seed being very limited due to reduction of acreage under cotton. Only a small quantity could be imported from the Dharwar District.

(e) There is no proposal to sell cotton seed through Government agency.

Retail distribution of cotton seed to milch cattle is arranged through authorised retail distributors and rural distribution centres on rationed basis.

DEATHS OF MR BHULABHAI DESAI AND DR HASSAN SUHRAWARDY

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House) May 1 12 Noon with your permission, Sir, refer to the passing away since this House last met, of two eminent Members of this Assembly, Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai and Dr Hassan Suhrawardy. Some of us here who are new comers to this House were not associated with them in their work in this House. Most others had intimate association with them. We also, in other fields, knew them and worked with them. Mr Bhulabhai Desai played during the last many years a very important part in this House. His brilliant intellect was directed to the service of the cause of the country's freedom, and in this House, as well as outside, he served that cause not only by the brilliance of his intellect but by the sacrifices which he made. His last great feat which is enshrined in the minds of his countrymen was his brilliant defence of the trials known as I N A. trials and the last speech which he delivered at that trial will long be found to be enshrined in the annals of freedom. Perhaps it was that great feat of his that hastened his death. He was an ill man at the time, but he preserved and when he went away it was only gradually to fade away.

Dr Hassan Suhrawardy was eminent in many walks of life. He shone as an educationist, as a physician and in public life. I knew Mr Bhulabhai Desai very intimately outside this House. We were colleagues. Dr Hassan Suhrawardy was a much older acquaintance, with whom I first came into contact 27 years ago. In spite of the fact that during the intervening years, we did not see much of each other, yet the memory of our old acquaintance and friendship endured, for Dr Hassan Suhrawardy was eminently an attractive and likeable person.

Well, Sir, death comes to all of us and it is an odd thing that though death is a certainty, yet we grieve for it. Life and death come one after another and hordes of people die unremembered and live unremembered also. But the question is how a person has lived his life and how he has met the final challenge of death. If he has lived worthily for a worthy cause, and if he has died bravely, then it has been well with him. But if he has not lived worthily, is does not matter much whether he is alive or is dead. I am afraid that most people are tied up in their petty interests and do not pay much attention to the big things of life. But to those of us who have the honour of coming to this House or serving large causes elsewhere, it is given to some extent to shoulder these burdens, sometimes as with some of us here, who are new comers to this House—and may I say personally for myself, a novice, a complete novice in the ways of this House. I seek your indulgence and the indulgence of this House for my inexperience in any errors or mistakes that I may commit—we have been here some of us for some little time past facing days and nights full of toil and responsibility and worry which is no light task, and when I say this and when I think of those who have in their own way, in the past carried this burden, I sympathise with them very greatly. And, so, when I think of those who have in other days and in other manners faced this Assembly and carried on the work of this Assembly not from this side of this House but from the other and laid the foundations in many ways for the present, I am thankful to them. I am somewhat apprehensive at the same time whether we who follow them will also live up to the mark they set down. Therefore, Sir, I should like to pay on behalf of the House this homage to the memory of the two great members of this House who served not only this House but the country in the cause of freedom.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European). Sir, I rise to associate this Group and myself wholeheartedly with everything which has been said by the Leader of the House in regard to those two of our colleagues whose loss we all mourn today. We are particularly grateful to you, Sir, for dispensing with the normal convention and allowing us to express our feelings on this subject, for we feel that special circumstances demand and make it fitting, that we should in the first place, in the happily changed political circumstances, pay a great tribute to one whose highest aspiration was to see popular Government established in this country. Mr. Bhulabhai Desai was known to many of us, not only by his performance in this House, but outside, as an intimate friend. I myself first met him not in his capacity of the leader of the Congress party, but as a charming and courteous host and distinguished scholar. I once began to engage him in conversation about the history and the literature of my own country. I soon discovered that even on these subjects, his knowledge was so much greater and more profound than my own, that the conversation necessarily had to be one-sided. I next met him, as we all met him, in this House, where besides being a leader of a great party, he was unrivalled as an orator. Day by day we listened to his stately periods and his mellifluous eloquence. We listened with admiration and if indeed it were possible for any of us who fell so far short of his eloquence to envy him,—we listened with envy too. We recognised in him not only a great orator but a man who meant what he said, a man who had the courage of his convictions and who was never afraid of putting them forward in the most forcible possible manner. It is particularly fitting that we should think of him today, for in the presence on the Government benches of the representatives of both the major parties of this country, he would have seen the consummation of his highest hopes. As far as we in this group are concerned, it is still more appropriate that we should join in this expression of condolence because we shared his hopes then and we share now the satisfaction which would have been his, at the presence on those benches of parties representing the people of this country. We hope too as he would have hoped had he still been alive—that their presence on those benches today is but a prelude to a rapid solution of

[Mr P. J. Griffiths.]

the long-term constitutional problem and to the final establishment of self-government for this country without qualification of any kind. That hope and that desire, provide the background of our thoughts today when we remember Bhulabhai Desai and when we ask you to convey to his bereaved relatives our deep sense of loss,—a loss which includes him not only as a politician and as an orator, but as a friend.

We would wish also, Sir, to be associated with what has been said regarding Dr Hassan Suhrawardy. Many of us in this group knew him intimately and had long learnt to regard him with affection and respect. It is one of the many virtues of this House that, though opinions and parties may divide, the tie of friendship unites, and the loss of any Member of this House is a loss to all of us. That applies with particular force in the case of Dr Hassan Suhrawardy, whose charming personality and character had long endeared him to every section of this House. We would therefore wish to join in expressing our condolences to his bereaved relatives regarding the loss of our distinguished colleague.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division, Muhammadan Rural). Sir, on my own behalf as well as on behalf of the Muslim League Party, I associate myself with everything that has been said by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition about the two gentlemen who have departed from amongst us. Mr Desai was one of the most charming Members who ever sat in this House and he was a friend not only of the Members of his own party of the Opposition Members but also equally a friend of those whom he criticised from day to day in this House. His great efforts in the cause of the country and in uplifting the status and keeping up the dignity of this House will be remembered by everyone. The House lost when he did not come here and his death is now a loss to the whole country.

Dr Hassan Suhrawardy was a Member who held high positions and gained a lot of experience in administration and public life. He was selected by the Muslim League Party as a Member of this House because the party thought that his valuable experience would be an asset to this House. We have lost in him a valuable colleague and we think that our loss is irreparable. The loss of both these Honourable Members is mourned by our party. We associate ourselves with all that has been said about them and we hope you, Sir, will include our party when you convey the message of condolence to their bereaved families.

Mr President I fully associate myself with all that has been said by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the spokesman of the Muslim League party. I shall convey to the relatives of the deceased Members the feelings which have been expressed in this House.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. President I have received notices of nineteen motions for adjournment two of which have since been withdrawn leaving seventeen for disposal. I shall take up each of them in the order in which it has been received.

The first motion stands in the name of Sardar Mangal Singh, who wishes to discuss the 'inability of the Government of India to prevent humiliating treatment being meted out to Indians in South Africa at the hands of the Union Government'. I will state my reactions to this. A number of adjournment motions on this question have been discussed in this House, and I understand that, since the last session, trade relations with South Africa have been broken, the High Commissioner has been recalled and there has been a reference of this question in the U. N. O. Does the Honourable Mover still think that this is an urgent matter for discussion?

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab. Sikh) Sir, the fact that this matter is now before the U. N. O. should not be a bar to its being taken up here. Our countrymen in South Africa feel very deeply about it and they have started a civil disobedience movement there. The country feels strongly about it and it is surely an urgent matter which should be discussed here.

Mr. President I take it that the intention of the motion is to convey to the South African Government the quantum of strength of Indian feeling on this question. I should like to know what the Leader of the House has to say about this.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House) Sir, it is surely a strange way of conveying that quantum or strength of feeling by condemning the Government and by making them feel perhaps in South Africa that Government are not doing what they should do in the matter. As a matter of fact, as you yourself remarked, a very great deal has been done in this matter and I shall be very glad indeed if the Honourable Member Sardar Mangal Singh could tell us what more we could do and in what directions we could pursue this matter further, short of sending an army across from here for purposes of war. At the present moment, as the House no doubt knows, the matter is before the United Nations General Assembly and I may say that the delegation we have sent have already justified themselves not only by the great ability with which they have conducted the fight in the preliminary rounds but also by a certain measure of success that they have already achieved. I do not wish to mention names or say that some people have done better than others but so far two names stand out prominently—the names of the Leader of the delegation and Mr. Chagla who very ably conducted the legal part of the argument there and who won his point in spite of stout opposition. I may also express in this connection our gratitude to the other nations who supported us notably the Soviet, the U.S.A., China, Syria, Ukraine and France. I do not remember all, but only last night we received in our office a long telegram giving us some details of those arguments before the United Nations Assembly and telling us of the significant success that our delegation has achieved in this preliminary round and of the great sympathy of the various nations represented in the Assembly for India and for Indians in South Africa. Therefore I think that all that we can do at present is being done with vigour and I hope that in the United Nations Assembly the position will go in our favour, but whether it goes in our favour or not we shall stand by our countrymen in South Africa to the end.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I did not quite follow the point which the Honourable the Leader of the House wanted to make. He admits that the question is before the United Nations Organisation and is very important and urgent, but his only idea is that this motion has been brought forward here to condemn the Government of India. I wish he had waited for my speech which I will make when I introduce the motion and seen whether my object is to condemn the Government of India or what I want. In this House rules are such that we can only bring forward questions in this form. That is my difficulty. I would have brought forward this question in some other form, but the rules do not permit. Therefore I was forced to bring this question in this form and I hold, Sir, that the motion is quite in order and it should be discussed today.

Mr. President I do not think any argument on this question is now necessary. The wording of the motion makes it very clear—'the inability of the Government of India', whatever that means. However, I do not propose to discuss this matter any further. I do not think I can give my assent to this motion.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN BENGAL, BOMBAY, U P, BIHAR, ETC

Mr. President The next motion is from the Honourable Member, Mr. Sunyal, which reads as follows —

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing a definite matter of urgency and of public importance, namely the duty of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the Province of Bengal where the Governor as also the Government have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women from the 16th of August 1946 (the Direct Action Day of the Muslim League) onwards, such failure still subsisting"

There are five other similar motions from different Honourable Members containing the same substance, and in some cases the same language, only with the difference that the places where these disturbances have occurred are differently mentioned. Otherwise, so far as the substance goes, all these motions practically stand on the same footing. I may just read them out, and I propose to consider all these together as the subject matter of all these motions is almost identical —

Mr. Killedar's motion reads as follows —

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the City of Ahmedabad where the Governor of Bombay as well as the Government of Bombay have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women in the City of Ahmedabad from 1st August 1946 onwards, such failure still subsisting"

Mr. Ahmed Jaffer's motion is this —

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the Province of Bombay where the Governor of Bombay as well as the Government of Bombay have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women in the District of Nasik from the 2nd September 1946 onwards, such failure still subsisting"

Mr. Killedar's second motion runs thus —

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the City of Bombay where the Governor of Bombay as well as the Government of Bombay have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women in the city and suburbs of Bombay from 1st September 1946 onwards, such failure still subsisting"

The next motion is from Mr. Ghazanfarulla which reads as follows —

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in Allahabad where the Governor of the United Provinces as well as the Government of the United Provinces have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women in the city of Allahabad from June 1946 onwards, such failure still subsisting"

And the last one on this subject is from Mr. Muhammad Nauman, which reads as follows —

"That this Assembly do now adjourn for discussing the definite matter of urgency and public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General to take such steps as would ensure peace and tranquillity in the village Benabad, P.O. Kufra District Mazaffarpore Bihar where the Governor of Bihar as well as the Government of Bihar Province have failed to protect the life, property and honour of a large section of men and women in the village and its locality since the month of October 1945 onwards, such failure still subsisting"

I do not see how these motions, which deal with practically a provincial subject and which take it for granted that the Provincial Governments and Governors have failed in their duties could be discussed here in this House. May I know from the Honourable Member as to how this motion is in order and as to how the Government of India figure in this?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammādan Rural) Mr. President, I am very glad that I have got so many friends and followers in the Muslim League. Without being competent to say anything on these motions, I will confine myself to mine on Bengal.

Mr. President: I may make the position clear. I do not wish to have a separate argument on each of these motions. The substance of the motions is identical in all cases.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: So far as I am concerned, I submit that the people of Bengal owe as much allegiance to this Government as they do to the Provincial Government. They pay large revenues to this Government also, and they expect that in this dire hour of crisis, which has no parallel and precedent in history, they will get some protection from the Government of India. I do not like to enter into the question of admissibility but I will expect the Government of India, if it is possible for them, to make such a statement, as in their wisdom they can at the present moment, which may give an impression as to how they can help these people who are suffering enormously even within the limitations of the Constitution Act. May I expect a statement from the Government of India? If the Honourable Member makes a statement giving an indication as to how they propose to help these men (even within the limitations of the Constitution Act, the question of entering into a formal debate will not arise).

To-day, Sir, on the very first day, when the nation is represented on the Treasury Bench, nothing should be done by any member of the House to prejudice that concord and harmony for which we are going ahead. At the same time we expect that the Government will make such a statement and give such a gesture not only consistent with their limitations, but also assuring to their countrymen.

Mr. President: What we are concerned with is the question of the admissibility of the motions, not their merits.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In that case irrespective of the question how the Provincial Governments deal with the matter, it is within the competence of the Government of India to take cognizance of the situation and to send such relief and such organizations which come to the aid of the people. If they cannot directly interfere, they can seek the aid of His Majesty's Government in this matter. After all, if the life and honour of women and men are not safe, I do not know for what purpose a Government exists!

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official) Even on the point of the advisability of the admission of this question I would draw the attention of this House that it is the primary duty of the Government of India to safeguard the lives of the people of this country, no matter in what province?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is going into the merits and feelings seem to be getting the better of the legal argument. What I am concerned with is to see as to whether within the four corners of the Statute, the rules and standing orders such a motion can be permitted to be discussed. I am not concerned with the desirability or otherwise of discussing these questions. But if it is pointed out to me that there is a duty of the Government of India in which they have failed—the Government of India would mean, not the Governor-General acting in his discretion, but the Governor-General in Council—then only I can see my way to admit the motions. But I find a difficulty there, so far as my own reading of the provisions is concerned.

I might invite Honourable Members' attention to Rule 23 which is to be read with Rule 12.

Rule 23 lays down restrictions on the subjects for discussion. It says

"Every resolution shall be in the form of a specific recommendation addressed to the Governor-General in Council."

[Mr. President.]

I am reading this Rule because Rule 12 provides, that an adjournment motion cannot be made on a subject on which a resolution cannot be moved; it reads as under:—

"The motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved or save with the consent of the Governor-General in his discretion with a matter on which a resolution could not, save with such consent, be moved."

So where there is a matter which is for the Governor-General to decide in his discretion, then the consent of the Governor-General will be necessary, and one may now refer to rule 23 which says:

"No resolution shall be moved—

(u) save with the consent of the Governor-General in his discretion,—

(c) on any action taken in his discretion by the Governor-General in relation to the affairs of a Province,"

That is the difficulty. Will the Honourable Member please just enlighten me on this point and show how the motions are admissible? None of the movers of these motions has obtained the consent of the Governor-General.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) The consent can be obtained. We can get that tomorrow, if you like.

Mr. President: It is not a question of my liking. An Honourable Member who brings in a motion of adjournment is supposed to know, the form in which it is to be brought. I am pointing out the difficulties. I cannot advise Honourable Members here in the House as to the proper way in which they could have framed their motions or obtained consent.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) May I take a minute, Sir? I wish to refer to the legal aspect. I am quite sure, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Sanyal has said, that on this day nobody would like to move any adjournment motion or to raise any point of discord. Things are very grave in Bengal. Words cannot describe it. The whole country is distressed and agitated over it. But we know that the Government which sits in charge today in this House is more competent than anyone else can be to look after things. Therefore while we feel most deeply concerned, we need not raise the point, and can leave it to our present National Government to deal with the situation. I only wish to refer to the legal and constitutional aspect. The legal point is very simple. The Government of India Act does contemplate interference in provincial administration by the Governor-General under certain circumstances. If this House, Sir, under a certain set of circumstances thought fit and you permitted it, it would be open to it to have a resolution recommending to the Governor-General that in view of those circumstances the Governor-General might bring into operation certain sections of the Government of India Act which would result in interference with the provincial administration. To that extent that matter can be discussed by a resolution. Similarly, I submit, Sir, that this motion can be taken up and discussed by this House. I am not going into the merits. Personally I am not for any adjournments to be moved or pressed today. I am dealing with the legal aspect only.

Therefore, Sir, it is open to us to suggest that since resolutions of that type can be discussed there should be no ban against a motion of this type in view of the situation. Circumstances may arise in a province or in any part of the country which would justify this Assembly to say that even as the law stands the Government of India, under those circumstances, could, do certain things in those parts to protect people's lives and property and honour, and to protect the fair name of this country from being sullied. Certain sections implying active interference could have no meaning except that if the necessity arose, we

could go into such matters. Therefore, I submit that these motions can be in order. This is only the constitutional and legal aspect, and I hope and trust that, if agreeing with this view you are pleased to say that the motions are in order, even then in view of the special circumstances of this historic day—I shall not go into it—no adjournment motion will be pressed.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces Landholders) In 1942, when Congress passed a resolution the Viceroy and the Executive Council Members took immediate action, although

Mr. President: Order, order, The Honourable Member is going into the merits of the question.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: That is very in ch'ice the present situation. The Government of India can interfere as they did in 1942, that was when we were fighting for the freedom of the country.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member point out any section which imposes on the Government of India that means the Governor-General-in-Council, the statutory duty of advising?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) May I point out that there is a certain amount of confusion. We are working under the Act of 1919. The Provincial Governments are acting under the Act of 1935. The Act of 1935 gives complete provincial autonomy. It was a different matter when Section 93 was in operation. Section 93 is no longer in operation, and I contend, Mr. President that this House has no right under the Act of 1935 to interfere with the Provincial Government. It is an extraordinary position that a Central Government should be working under the Act of 1919 and the Provincial Governments are working under a different Act. But that is to be taken as it is. Besides, may I point out that circumstances today are completely different to the circumstances that existed during the last session when a different Government was on the treasury Benches.

Today we have an Indian Government on the Treasury Benches and Indian Governments in the Provinces and therefore the wholesome practice of not interfering with Provincial Governments should prevail. Whatever your ruling may be even if it be by convention, it should now be established that the Government of India should not interfere in such domestic matters except what is provided for by the law in the Act of 1935.

Mr. President: I would like to know what the views of Government are on the matter.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This matter relates specially to the Home Department and my colleague here may speak on it. But may I say one word in regard to this particular motion? I am zealous of the powers of this House and I should not like anyone to limit those powers. I am not such a big constitutional lawyer as many present here but I would resist any decision. (*Pandit Govind Malaviya* I am sorry I have to mention again that we cannot hear anything that the Honourable the Leader of the House says.) Naturally the Home Member will say what he has to say about the attitude of the Government in regard to these motions. Naturally any motion which is in the nature of a condemnatory motion against Government has to be resisted by us. As a legal argument I do submit that the matter is a very intricate one and I hope no decision will be given that will in future limit the powers of this House.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting) Sir, I fully appreciate and deeply sympathise with the feelings of representatives of Bengal and of others whose feelings have been deeply wounded by what has happened in the Eastern parts of Bengal and I wish to say that whilst I fully sympathise with them I would appeal to them and to all others to say nothing.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Batra and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa Muhammadan) Sir, on a point of order, I want you to say one thing in this connection.

[Mr Muhammad Nauman]

The Honourable the Home Member is referring to only one adjournment motion regarding Eastern Bengal. He has not made any mention of the other five adjournment motions.

Mr. President. The Honourable the Home Member has not finished his speech. The Honourable Member would do well to hear him first and then say what he has to say.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Whilst I fully sympathise with them I would appeal to them and to all others to say nothing or to do nothing which would have repercussions outside this House. You all know the situation in the country. We are meeting under peculiar circumstances. You will appreciate the difficult and delicate nature of the task that we have undertaken of governing this country. You also know that the constitutional position, whatever it may be, is being evolved and it would not be right for this House to take a position, a definite position, in which impediments may be created which would bind this House and limit its powers. At the same time if it comes to taking a position in which a censure motion is to be passed, this Government has to resist it. You will all appreciate that the time is not for a debate, a debate will not solve the problem—but the time is for action, such action as would prevent the shocking and disgraceful happenings that have taken place and we must all hope and expect that vigorous steps, adequate steps, will be taken to prevent such occurrences and at the same time to prevent disorder or the breaking down of Government. Therefore I can only say that I can assure you on behalf of the Government that whatever is possible will be done without any hesitation and at this stage I can only appeal to you all to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, I do not press my motion.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: What about the minority Provinces?

Mr. President: The Honourable the Home Member said in respect to the whole of India.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman. He was only referring to Bengal and nowhere else.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Not a word has been said about the happenings in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Nadi.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I said about all and I mentioned particularly the representatives of East Bengal, because they have suffered more. I said all whose feelings have been wounded by the happenings in the country.

Mr. Abdur Rahaman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs, Muhammadan Urban). Sir, I want your guidance on a phrase used by the Honourable the Home Member—"Whatever is possible will be done by the Government of India." And therefore if the Government of India can use its influence, why debar me from telling it how I want it to work and what are my grievances. This House has certainly the right to discuss in every aspect all matters in which the Government of India through the Home Department will do every thing possible—do this and the other. Therefore may I submit that this House has the fullest right to discuss these matters, if the Government of India can interfere in them.

Mr. President: I do not think any further arguments over this question are now necessary. As I said in the beginning I have been entertaining doubts as to whether such motions would be in order, specially when they refer to provincial matters and want to criticise the actions of Provincial Governments or even the conduct of Provincial Governors. But I do see the point made by the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Honourable the Home Member and I should not be taken to have decided the question by any views expressed today. I think at present, it is sufficient for me to state that I do not feel satisfied that I should give my consent to this motion. The point which

has arisen now might be duly considered and studied, because it cannot be dealt with merely by references or arguments as to what is desirable, but by arguments on what is actually contained in the Government of India Act or the Rules and Standing Orders.

After thus clearing the position, I dispose of the motions by stating that I am unable to give my consent to them. That disposes of these motions and one which I omitted to mention—No 11 from Mr. Satvapriya Banerjee who wants to discuss—

"The situation in Noakhali arising out of mass massacre of Hindus, the burning of thousands of houses belonging to Hindus, the looting of Hindu properties, the forcible conversion of Hindus by Muslims, abduction of Hindu women and their forcible marriage with Mohammedans and blocking of all roads to affected areas."

WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN TROOPS FROM INDONESIA

Mr. President. The next is by Sardar Mangal Singh who wants to discuss—

"The failure of the Government of India to arrange the withdrawal of the Indian troops from Indonesia."

I think this is in pursuance of a promise given by government during the last session that they would withdraw the troops by a certain date. What is the position?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The present position is that Indian troops will be withdrawn from Indonesia at the latest by the end of November. I believe some delay has occurred partly owing to shipping difficulties—transport etc. But there is no doubt that this decision that has been made is being carried out, and by the end of November we hope it will be complete.

Sardar Mangal Singh: In view of the assurance given by the Leader of the House, I do not press the motion.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: The assurance given, does not satisfy me. Will the Honourable Leader of the House give us also an assurance that in case the Netherlands Government is unable to despatch its own soldiers, there shall be no delay beyond the 30th November in withdrawing our troops from Indonesia?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member will appreciate that the kind of assurance he asks from me is not very easy to give, but I will give him an assurance that so far as this government is concerned, we are not going to tolerate any delays or any subterfuges in the way of getting our troops back from Indonesia.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN CALCUTTA

Mr. President: The next one is by Mr. Satvapriya Banerjee, to discuss—

"The terrible tragedy that overtook Calcutta on the 16th August, last and the following days and has been since continuing and which has caused the loss of thousands of human lives, the destruction and looting of property worth several crores and the utter ruination of a large number of families."

This also shares the same fate as the other motions on the subject.

COLLECTION OF ARMS AND OTHER LETHAL WEAPONS FOR VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM

Mr. President: The next one is by Mr. K. C. Nigoy, to discuss—

"The failure of the Central Intelligence Bureau to watch and discover in time traffic in, and collection of arms and other lethal weapons by lawless elements, preparatory to outbursts of violence and terrorism on an organised scale, as revealed in the grave happenings in certain parts of the country on and after the 16th August 1946."

Has the Honourable the Home Member anything to say on this?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, the ingenuity with which this motion has been drafted will make it clear that the Honourable Member is conscious of the constitutional difficulties involved in this and the other motions that have been brought forward in this House. The Honourable Member's motion involves two questions—one, the functions of the Central Intelligence

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

Bureau, and two, the traffic in and collection of arms. As regards one, the functions of the Bureau, it has to gather information which would be useful and which in the main is of a political nature. The Central Intelligence Bureau does not perform the functions contemplated in this motion, it only gets returns from the provinces about arms and ammunition of a major nature—if there is any loss of such munitions as machine guns or rifles or pistols etc., then they get returns from the provinces. For arms of a minor character, if there is any serious trouble, then such returns are called for, but from the nature of the arms contemplated in this motion which were detected probably in Bombay and in some other places coming from either the frontier or the border areas, which arms were not of the same nature but were lethal weapons. It is very difficult to say whether they are not intended for domestic use or whether the intelligence Bureau has to gather information of this nature. It does not perform this function and therefore I must resist this motion. At the same time I must say that the Arms Act would have to be amended if this kind of arms is to be included in the category of weapons which are prevented under the Arms Act. Therefore, the present motion, although worded cleverly and brought in for a different purpose altogether is not, I think, such as can be admitted. I resist it.

Mr K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) I should not like to give a reply to the arguments that the Honourable the Home Member has put forward. I shall content myself with saying that I do not desire to move this motion.

JUTE CONTROL

Mr President: The next is by Mr. Sanyal about jute control—

The situation that has arisen as a result of the Government of India and the Government of Bengal having acted differently and in opposite directions in the matter of fixation of price of jute.”

The Jute control Order is cancelled, I believe. It has been published in the press.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I do not wish to move this.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN CALCUTTA

Mr. President: Then there is another which has already been disposed of, about the failure of the Government of India to advise the Governor General regarding the happenings in Calcutta from the 16th August—I need not read it out to the House.

RICE SHORTAGE IN BENGAL

Mr President: The next is from Mr Satyapriya Banerjee about the non-availability of rice in various parts of Bengal and the consequent rise in its price, reported death from starvation as a result thereof and the failure of the Government to meet the situation. May I know about the urgency of this matter?

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee (Chittagong and Rajshahi Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) The situation, Sir, has assumed serious proportions. The food problem has been engaging the attention of this House since 1943 and I think there has been very little progress, if any, in this matter of supplying rice to the poorer sections of the people of Bengal. If the Honourable the Food Member can give us an assurance that there will be a food debate in this House in this session, I will not press this motion.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Member for Food and Agriculture) I have no difficulty whatever in giving the assurance that the Honourable Member wants. I propose that a day should be set apart for discussion of the food situation.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: In view of the assurance, Sir, I withdraw my motion.

JUTE CONTROL

Mr. President: There is next the motion by Mr Tamizuddin Khan about the jute position that has been disposed of. It raises the same point as the other motion.

BOMBING OF TRIBAL AREAS IN WAZIRISTAN

Mr. President: There is another motion by the same member, Mr Tamizuddin Khan. He wants to discuss—

"The recent aerial bombing of tribal areas in Waziristan and the destruction of life and property caused thereby."

This requires the consent of the Governor General. It has not been received. As the Honourable Member has moved for his consent, we shall have to postpone this motion till the consent is received.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Governor General is prepared to grant his consent.

Mr. President: The Honourable the Leader of the House informs me that the Governor General is prepared to give his consent.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just been informed by Sir George Spence to that effect. On his authority I stated that he had received a message from the Governor General that he was prepared to grant his consent.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon (Sind Muhammadan Rural): Has the Honourable the Leader of the House received the consent?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not received the formal consent.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: The statement of the Honourable the Leader of the House is a vicarious one. He says that so and so tells me that the permission is likely to be given.

Mr. President: In any case I may fix up the motion for 4 o'clock today and in the meanwhile we shall await the formal receipt of the consent.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I merely informed you what I was told but apart from that how this question arises at the present stage does not appear to be very clear. I have not got this motion before me. I have just heard from you.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City Muhammadan Urban): Until you have got the consent of the Governor General no further discussion can take place. You cannot deal with the motion until you have got the consent.

Mr. President: I am suggesting that this matter might be taken up at 4, if the consent is received in the meantime.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: You cannot do it until this motion has been admitted by you. Therefore all that you can say is this—that you can allow it to stand over.

Mr. President: I will have the matter postponed and will consider it when the consent is received. I shall then decide whether it is admissible or not. It can be taken up for consideration tomorrow.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN CALCUTTA

Mr. President: There is another motion from Mr Tamizuddin Khan to discuss—

"The failure of Government to arrange prompt military intervention for quelling the recent mid August disturbances in Calcutta."

I do not think it is admissible. May I know how this is admissible? It is a question of intervention by the Government of India in provincial affairs. Did the Provincial Government make a request for intervention?

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (Dacca cum Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural). Oh yes Request was made but some how or other the request was not considered

Mr. President: May I know what the facts are about this?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not a thing that has happened at all

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We became members of the Government a little more than 2 weeks after this occurrence but no doubt some information could be supplied, if the Honourable Member wants it, of the failings and errors of the previous caretaker Government

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) We cannot hear what the Honourable the Leader of the House is saying May I suggest that a microphone be installed before we meet next tomorrow

Mr. President: I cannot hear what the Honourable Member is saying

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadan) We could hear our leaders before even when they were far away—1000 yards away and we cannot hear them, now that they are so near

Mr. President: So far as the terms of this motion are concerned, the facts have not been stated clearly I do not think I could admit this

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Budget Session, 1946 and which have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act, as continued by section 317 of the Government of India Act, 1935 —

STATEMENT

- 1 The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 2 The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 3 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 4 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Second Amendment) Act, 1946
- 5 The Professions Tax Limitation (Amendment) Act, 1946.
- 6 The Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 7 The Indian Finance Act, 1946
- 8 The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 9 The Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946
- 10 The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 11 The Provident Funds (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 12 The Trade Marks (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 13 The Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 14 The Railway Companies (Substitution of Parties in Civil Proceedings) Act, 1946
- 15 The Indian Coconut Committee (Amendment) Act, 1946
- 16 The Protective Duties Continuation Act, 1946
- 17 The Protective Duties Act, 1946
- 18 The Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Amendment Act, 1946
- 19 The Hindu Married Women's Right to Separate Residence and Maintenance Act, 1946
- 20 The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946
- 21 The Merchant Seamen (Litigation) Act, 1946
- 22 The Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund^a Act, 1946

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

USE OF TEAR GAS OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL HOUSE

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan) I have given notice of an adjournment motion which the Honourable President did not read

Mr. President. I have gone through all the motions

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I have given notice about the use of tear gas outside the Chamber. I gave it to the Secretary and the Chief Whip

Mr. President: I do not know what has happened. I am in the House. I have not received any notice

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) It was delivered to the Chief Whip

Mr. President: Was any notice given to the President

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Yes Sir

Mr. President: I have not received it. I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 50 of the manual of Business [Rule 11 (2) and Standing Order 22]. Notice of an adjournment motion shall be given before the commencement of the sitting on the day on which the motion is proposed to be made to each of the following

(1) the President,

(2) the Member of the Government to whose department the motion relates, and

(3) the Secretary

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It does not mean that I should hand it to the President in person

Mr. President: Has the Honourable Member given notice to the Member of the Government

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It has been given to the Chief Whip

Mr. President: It seems nobody has received it

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: The practice is that the notice to the President and the Secretary is given in the Secretary's room. And the notice which was meant for the Honourable Member in charge of the Department was handed over in the Official Whip's room. All the motions which you have just now read out were handed over either to the Secretary personally or sent to his office room. When the notice of this adjournment motion was taken, the Secretary was inside your room and therefore it was left on his table and the notice for the Honourable Member was given to the official Whip. Probably, it is lying on his table and here is the copy of it

Mr. President: I can read out this notice, but the difficulty is that we won't be able to have the correct facts on both sides just at the moment. I therefore propose to take it up tomorrow

BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF THE THIRD INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I beg to present the third interim report* of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements

* Report printed as Appendix I to these Debates

TENDERS BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA—LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies): Sir, I beg to lay on the table* three statements furnished by the High Commissioner for India showing cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by him in purchasing stores for the Government of India, during the half years ended 31st December 1943, 30th June 1944 and the 31st December 1944

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes, and for certain other purposes

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes and for certain other purposes."

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I introduce the Bill

FACTORIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I introduce the Bill

INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam (Secretary, Health Department) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933"

The motion was adopted

Mr. S H Y Oulsnam: Sir, I introduce the Bill

INDIAN BOILERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. B. K. Gokhale (Secretary, Works, Mines and Power Department): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Boilers Act, 1923

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Boilers Act, 1923"

The motion was adopted

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I introduce the Bill

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

NOMINATION OF THE PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. President: I have to inform the House that under sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I nominate Mr K C Neogy, Syed Ghulam Bihk Nauang and Mr P J Griffiths on the Panel of Chairman for the current session

MOTION *RE* THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON 'BREITON WOODS AGREEMENTS

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I move

"That this Assembly having considered the third report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Agreements do hereby approve India's continued membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development"

As you are aware, Sir, I took over charge of this department only about 50 hours ago. In ordinary circumstances I would have requested this House to postpone discussion of this motion, but as I had the privilege of sitting on the other side—and I am not yet quite sure which side is better—and listening to the debates that have taken place in the past on this very subject, I felt that it would be wrong of me to allow this House to waste any time and not consider this matter which is indeed of very great importance. Honourable Members of this House are aware of all the arguments that have been advanced in favour of this and against it, and it is not my intention on this occasion to traverse the same ground. I will as briefly as possible place before the House the case for the acceptance of the motion which I have the honour to move on this occasion.

Sir, you will remember that on a previous occasion this Assembly adopted a motion accepting the recommendation contained in the second report of the Committee which was to this effect:

"That Government should take advantage of every possible provision in the Articles to postpone payment of the subscriptions due to the Fund and the Bank till the last moment, but if after consultation with these institutions it became necessary to take a final decision before the Assembly meets again Government should summon the Committee and a decision should be taken in consultation with them, the Committee being specially summoned for this purpose."

Sir, the Committee was informed and Government found that there was no provision in the Articles of the Bank or the Fund whereby the postponement could take place without India being disqualified. At that time the demand was for payment of 2 per cent of the contribution on or before 24th August if India was to continue to possess the qualification which was required. The Committee recommended that that amount should be paid and therefore this 2 per cent of the subscription which came to 8 million less 40,000 dollars, which had already been paid in U.S. dollars was paid before the 24th August 1946. On the 19th June Government were informed by the International Bank that it would start operations on the 24th June and were asked to make the following payments:

One payment I have already referred to. The other payment which Government were asked to make was 3 per cent of the subscription in rupees on or before the 25th November 1946 and a further 5 per cent in rupees on or before the 25th November, 1946, formal demand for which would follow later. It will be seen from the report of the Committee that the Committee decided that they would not feel justified in sanctioning this further demand without the matter being placed before the Assembly and the Committee recommended that a special session of the Assembly, irrespective of the political conditions that may prevail in the country, should be summoned before the 10th November. I am glad that it was possible to summon a session of this Assembly long before the time which was specified by this Committee, and now in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee Government have taken the first opportunity of coming before the House and seeking its sanction and approval to the continuation of the membership of Government in these organisations.

[Mr Liaquat Ali Khan]

I stated in the beginning that the object of this motion is to obtain, as was suggested by the Committee, the sanction of this House, but the motion has been so worded that we are asking the approval of this House not only to the immediate requirements of 8 per cent which we have to make, but for a declaration of its policy with regard to these international organisations. I personally feel that it is not very nice that we should keep this matter in suspense and every time when a demand is made we should come forward and say that we should pay so much, and postpone the final decision to some future date. It is really a matter which should be decided once and for all by this House, whether or not India is to continue as a member of these international organisations. And here I want Honourable Members to look at this problem only from the point of view of India's interests and of no other interests. Those of the Honourable Members who had occasion to listen to the debates in the past would recollect that it was suggested that we should not commit ourselves unless the question of sterling balances was settled. Now, Sir, this argument would imply that really speaking it was in the interest of the United Kingdom that India should join these international organisations. I want the House to divorce that idea from their minds, whether it is in the interest of U.K. or whether it is not. That should not be our consideration when we are discussing this motion. Our consideration should be whether it is in the interest of India or whether it is not in the interest of India. Much as we have sympathy for U.K. and all other countries of the world because India's hospitality is well known, yet I believe in the proverb that charity begins at home, and I must look to the interest of my own country first and to the interest of the rest of the world thereafter. Therefore Sir I think my Honourable friend Mr. Mann Sirdar has been the greatest advocate of this proposition that we must settle this question of sterling balances with United Kingdom before we take any final decision in this respect. I think he is right to a certain extent. But at the same time as I have stated just now, we should not really adhere to this position unless it can be shown that by our not joining this Fund and the Bank we could put a lever on the United Kingdom. I am afraid from the little examination that I have been able to make of this matter I do not see any connection between the two. I know that Honourable Members of this House feel very strongly with regard to our sterling balances. I can assure them that the Government of India today feel as strongly about these sterling balances if not more than Honourable Members of this House.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central District, Van Muhammadan Rural)
As urgently

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: We know that these sterling balances have been accumulated through the sacrifices through the trials, sweat and tears that the peoples of this country have gone through and we cannot be unmindful of the interest of these millions of people who have been responsible for making the position of this country as a creditor country. With regard to this matter I would like to tell Honourable Members of this House, and I am sure they will be glad to know that the Government of India have been pursuing this matter with great vigour and I am able to relate to you that His Majesty's Government are as anxious as we are that this matter of sterling balances should be settled that negotiations should be started as soon as possible. I am not using this expression 'as soon as possible', as a bumper and this expression has not the same meaning as it had in the past. When I say 'as soon as possible' I mean not the meaning of the bureaucratic language but I mean the straightforward meaning which you can place on these words. I am unable at this stage to indicate any definite date. But Honourable Members may rest assured that not a moment will be lost by the Government of India in starting negotiations with regard to this matter of sterling balances, and here, I would like to repeat once again that we are sensible, we know how these sterling balances have been accumulated and we shall see that India's interests are safeguarded and justice is done to India. I think with your

permission, Sir, I would like to quote the points which were raised from the speeches and the note of my friend Mr. Manu Subedar because that in fact is the fear, and that in fact is the position of those who are opposed to our joining this international Fund and this Bank. Sir, the apprehensions that were expressed in the Previous debates and as I have said just now particularly by Mr. Manu Subedar who has in his Note of Dissent in the third report of the committee clarified his position are really in respect of membership of the Bank more than in respect of membership of the Fund. But even here after weighing the pros and cons we consider that we should continue our membership. I would not like to waste the time of the House by reading out in detail the extracts from the report or the Minute of Dissent. I can briefly put the point of view of my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar. Firstly his objection is that he feels rather uncertain about the future of these organisations. His fear is based on our past experience of such organisations. He fears that the position of these organisations may be like U.N.R.R.A. or the League of Nations and we may suffer loss and these organisations may not be able to achieve all that is claimed for them. In this respect I would like to say that if we are interested and I hope we are, in the rehabilitation and the prosperity of the world at large because I am sure no Honourable Member of this House would deny that our prosperity will depend on the prosperity of the rest of the world if he believes that it is necessary to help in the rehabilitation of these countries which have been devastated on account of the last war if it is necessary in the interest of economic advancement of all the countries including India that those countries which are today in a deplorable condition should be brought up, then I submit Mr. President we should be prepared to take that risk. I am of the opinion that India cannot keep itself aloof from the economic repercussions in other parts of the world. If economically the other countries are bankrupt we cannot hope to prosper. It is absolutely essential that our trade should be on a very large scale with other countries and we cannot hope to achieve that unless those other countries are economically in a position to carry on trade with us.

The second fear that was expressed by my Honourable friend was that this money will be spent on rehabilitation of European countries only. I hope my Honourable friend will correct me if anywhere I put a wrong interpretation on what he has said. On that point Mr. President the object of this Bank is two-fold. Firstly to help in the rehabilitation of those countries which have been devastated on account of the war and secondly to assist those countries which are industrially backward. So it is not a question that will concern only those countries which were affected during the war. I believe and I think I am right that even those countries which are economically backward will be entitled to receive help and loans from this Bank.

The third point which was raised on previous occasions was that as we have got such large sterling balances— I think the value of which today is something like £700 crores as far as India is concerned we shall not need any loans. I would not agree with my Honourable friend if he thinks that it is possible for India to get this money either in lump sum or in a very short time. I think with the greatest amount of optimism it would be wrong to presume that I feel that with the industrial expansion of India which is absolutely necessary, the settlement which may be arrived at with regard to these sterling balances, the repayment will have to be done in instalments and I feel that the instalments which may be fixed may not give us sufficient money to meet all our requirements of industrialization. Therefore Sir I do not think that we will be justified in assuming that India will not receive or will not require any help from the Bank for future industrialization.

Now, Sir there is another point which was raised with regard to the Fund. It is suggested that by joining this Fund and because the Fund refers to exchanges we shall be losing our sovereignty as far as the monetary exchanges are concerned. On that point I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, has got greater experience and knowledge than I have. He would

[Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan] agree with me that it would be in the interest of economic development of all the countries if there was some machinery by means of which exchanges of the currencies of various countries could be stabilized. I think it would be in the interest of every country, and when you are thinking of the good of every country in this world including yourself you will have to give up some of that sovereignty. It will not in fact be a question of giving up that sovereignty because every country that comes into this Organisation will have come after giving up that certain amount of sovereignty, and therefore it will be really like independent people joining in a free partnership, and therefore, Sir, seriously speaking I do not think that that is an argument which should deter us from entering this Bank.

There is another fear which has been expressed, that this Bank may go into liquidation because of the shady transactions that may be carried on by its executive, and I think when we put forward that argument what looms large before us is the example of some of the very small banks which have gone into liquidation in this country and have not been able to meet their obligations. But, Sir, I think the Honourable Members of this House will agree that the same argument cannot apply to an organisation like the one which we are discussing today. It will be in the hands of responsible people representing responsible Governments, and we are one of those who will be represented on the Board of this Bank. And therefore I do not think that this fear, that thoughtless transactions may land this Bank into trouble should deter us from following a line if it is the right line on other grounds. And apart from that, Mr. President, the conditions for advancing loans have been laid down and they are very stringent and I feel that on that point we should really not have unnecessary fear.

Taking everything into consideration and keeping in view the importance of the question of settlement of the sterling balances, I feel that there is a good case, a justifiable case for India remaining a member of this Organisation. On this occasion Mr. President I want the House to consider this question very carefully and I want this House to give its verdict on this matter not only with regard to the immediate payments which have got to be made but with regard to the whole policy—whether we should continue to remain a member or whether we should not, whether we should contribute and in future meet all the liabilities that are there or whether we should not—and therefore, Sir, the motion which I have placed before the House has been worded in the language in which I have moved it, and I hope that the Honourable Members will feel about this matter in the same way as the Government do. In other words, that they would feel that it is in the interest of India to join these international organisations. If this Honourable House is of the opinion that it is not in the interests of India, then I would request the Honourable Members not to vote for my motion. I want the Honourable Members of this House to vote on merits not on sentiments. Because after all we have got to take into consideration the question of the millions of our countrymen. I do not want that on this motion the votes should be cast because of the composition of this Government. I want that the House should really consider this question on its merits and that the House will find itself in agreement with us that it is in the best interests of India that we should join these international organisations.

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That this Assembly having considered the Third Report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Agreements, do hereby approve India's continued membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Indian Commerce) I have listened with interest to the statement made by the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, the Finance Member whom we all welcome on the Treasury Benches and whose presence as well as the expressions used by him—the patriotic and reassuring expressions used by him—inspire great confidence

in us that in financial matters the affairs of our country are in very strong, stout and patriotic hands

On previous occasions when speaking on this subject, I was speaking with my back to the wall. I was speaking with the feeling that I was fighting a foreign octopus, a foreign government that was more interested in the welfare of their country than in the welfare of this country. I was feeling that the so-called mixed personnel of the Government of India was drifting and that the real direction of affairs came from London—that in these financial matters at all events London gave the instructions and London's representative in the British Finance Member in this House, followed those instructions regardless of the fact that this country's interests were wrongly involved and were sacrificed.

Now, Sir, that is not the case. Now we have every confidence with the Government which is there which is composed of popular representatives, of men of our choice, with men of our confidence, that this and other matters will be in safe hands, and whatever we say today is not necessarily a destructive comment, is not necessary in a spirit of controversy, but it is in the spirit of friendship with a view to help in very complicated and far-reaching problems. Indeed, Sir, the statement of my honourable friend himself shows that there is much more to this than the simple motion which he has moved. I regard this motion merely as this: Does this House have full confidence in this Government with regard to India's adherence or with regard to the exercise of powers which are inherent in the constitution of those institutions for withdrawal from them if the situation so arises? This House has absolute confidence and in that sense I am not going to oppose this motion.

Let me, however, explain the position of the numerous complications which arise. First of all, we are face to face with a very large question, a question of 17 to 18 hundred crores of rupees of this country's assets which were compulsorily removed to England, which are not being returned and on which no interest is being given to us. When so much of the assets of this country is—not quite in jeopardy but rather at least—held somewhere else against our wishes, is it right for this country to involve itself in an obligation of membership to these institutions which involve no less a liability than Rs. 320 crores. If, Sir, these assets were carrying interest, we would get every year a sum that would cover almost the whole interest charges payable by the Government of India in their budget. If these sums were made available earlier, it would betimes have been useful for the industrial purposes to which the Honourable the Finance Member referred. In other words, these matters have been held up and delayed by one excuse or the other. What is the excuse for the United Kingdom to say that it will not pay, that it will not even begin to pay, that it will not even start the negotiations. It may be possible to drop the curtain over the past in a more favourable atmosphere which we are all endeavouring to bring about. But this is really a very large issue. As I mentioned once before, the Rs. 1,800 crores is equivalent to 18 years net income of the Central Government of this country before the war. It is equivalent to about 25 years' trade balance of this country. These are not small matters, and if some of us felt worried, if some of us felt that it would be proper if India settled her own internal affairs first if India first got hold of the assets which have been removed, these assets which are the basic reserve for the currency of this country, if some of us felt not necessarily that we should not join but that we should defer, that we should delay till our own House was in order—at least it would be recognised that it was a sensible course, particularly when the decision to join was taken not by a Government responsible to this House.

Now what I wish to indicate is this: that even the foreign Government in that delegation which they sent to the Bretton Woods Conference took up a particular attitude that until and unless the sterling balance issues were definitely discharged, India would be in no position to join or finally decide with regard to her membership of these institutions. I have quotations from Sir Jeremy Raisman and Mr. A. D. Shroff. But I shall not waste the time

[Mr Manu Subedar]

of the House by going over the whole ground again. When the Bretton Woods Committee of this House first met in February, it emphasized—and this report was signed by a British Finance Member—

“In our view the final decision whether it would be to India's advantage to remain a member of the Bretton Woods institutions may be determined to a very considerable extent by the outcome of the negotiations which His Majesty's Government are committed to undertake with the Government of India on the subject of liquidation of sterling credits. If these negotiations are unduly delayed, it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the agreement to undertake commitments which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits.”

This same sentiment expressed on the 26th February, 1946 was reiterated by the Committee on the 17th April, 1946. We have to remember that India has not been able to start these negotiations or to get a satisfactory mention and further of the fact that the assurances which were sought from February have not been received from His Majesty's Government. I will read the assurance part.

“Nevertheless in order to allay the anxieties which have been caused by certain statements in the Parliament and in the British press, we would welcome an early and authoritative reassurance by His Majesty's Government on this point and the fixing of a date for negotiations with the least possible delay.”

Not only were no negotiations fixed but the assurances sought for as early as February, 1946 were not forthcoming, until the third report which we wrote on the 29th July, and where I am sorry I had to differ from my colleagues. Under these circumstances is it very strange that the position which I was taking up then was the position of the Government of India as was then constituted. It was that the representatives of the Government of India tried at the Bretton Woods Conference to induce the Conference to permit the new institutions that were being instituted to be used for the liquidation of England's debt to India. Did they succeed in this effort? They were foiled in this effort by the combination of British as well as the U. S. A. representatives at that conference. India's case was lost. Even the then Government felt bitter about it. This conspiracy between Britain and the U. S. A. representatives against India was continued thereafter in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement. In the Anglo-American Loan Agreement there are two clauses, clauses 6 and 10(c)—which are specifically antagonistic to the interests of India. This agreement was made behind the back of this country. No reference was made to the Government of India with regard to this agreement and the then Government of India, I am sorry to say, failed to intervene when they knew and were informed that something was being done which was prejudicial to the interests of this country. Not only with regard to the Fund and the Bank specific provisions were made that these particular debts owing to India by the U. K. should not be included, not only was that done, but in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement it was specifically provided that no part of the loan which was given by the U. S. A. to England should be used for the purpose of giving back the moneys which England was owing to this country. Not only that but more specifically it was provided that the manner in which these negotiations should take place and the settlements should be made should be that the debt would be divided into three parts—part of it would be immediately converted, part would be consolidated and part would be scaled down. It was provided that if at any time England wanted relief in the matter of interest charges on the loan which she had raised in the U. S. A. that relief was to be given only when England came to the U. S. A. with her hands free—that is to say after repudiation of whatever was due to India by way of capital as well as by way of interest. In other words this issue is not as simple as it looks and with all due deference to members of the Government, who are the most prominent men and chosen leaders of the people of this country may I humbly point out that this is a financial chess game and there is a pitfall. There is a specific pitfall in which

more powerful interests are stampeding this country into a position which it will not otherwise take and more powerful interests are conspiring in order to do harm to this country and it is my duty, more specific duty, now with the Government as now constituted to point this out to the best of my ability

On every occasion this country has been called upon to take hurried decisions with regard to the Bretton Woods institutions. We have been jockeyed or thrust into these decisions. In the first instance we were told to join up immediately, otherwise we would not be an original member. Then we were told that we would not get a representative to attend these institutions and that they would be kept out. Now we are told that we would be defaulters if we came out. Let me put the point of view of other countries, as they are deciding on these issues.

Did the U. K. in spite of the glib talk rush into the decision to join these institutions? The objective of the U. K. was a very large loan from the U. S. A. for this Dollar Loan Agreement; the late Lord Keynes and Lord Halifax had to wait with their hats in hand for more than six months. This Dollar Loan Agreement came about on the 6th December 1945. On the 13th of December Parliament met and not only approved of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement but also approved of England's membership in these two institutions and, generally, I think, of the Union Trade Organisation which was being set up. In other words England had a particular objective. As soon as that objective was achieved, she joined these institutions but not till then. We also have and have had—and on this there is no difference of opinion on either side of the House—one singular and principal objective, namely that with the creditor status which has been forced on India involuntarily, with the money which they have taken away in the course of five years from this country at very great sacrifice on the part of this country, there should be no uncertainty about these moneys. These moneys are badly wanted as currency reserve and in order to deal with the stability of internal prices they should be forthcoming and every thing should be in order before we go into these institutions. This is the point which we have always urged and which I still urge on the Government, not in the form of immediate withdrawal or in any other way. As a matter of fact the Committee themselves wrote in the first report that a situation might arise in which this country may have to withdraw from these institutions.

By way of this Anglo-American Loan the U. K. got from America no less in amount than 1,466 crores of rupees. The U. K. then contributed 2,600 million dollars, which is equivalent to about 800 crores of rupees, in other words the whole of the contribution to this Fund and Bank, so far as the U. K. is concerned, arises out of a loan which she was able to raise. It does not arise out of any basic money or reserve which the U. K. people hold. It comes from outside and it is disposed of outside. It is a singular point to note that the U. K. regarded the membership of these two institutions—which was opposed by large sections in the Parliament itself—as a sort of price to pay for the loan which she was receiving, that the international enthusiasm was not there, that it was purely a calculating financial game.

Take Russia, another large country which is also after a large dollar loan. Russia is not thinking of joining these institutions unless and until she gets the dollar loan. Take Australia and New Zealand. These two Empire countries have kept away from these institutions and are only attending them by means of a representative observer. There is nothing which finally determines India's attitude towards international affairs, towards these particular institutions. It is simply a question of judging which is the best moment. Is the best moment after we have put our sterling matter issue right or is it now? All the same I commend these ideas to this Government in order that they may consider them if and when the occasion arose.

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

What has annoyed me throughout the last 12 months is the amount of persistent propaganda, persistent anti-Indian propaganda which has come from the U. K. We challenged it in this House and Sir Archibald Rowlands was not able to deny that certain semi-official propaganda was sanctioned by the Treasury officials of the U. K. These pin-pricks and propaganda have been frequently sent down and I am sorry to say that the Indian press has given them an unworthy circulation, creating a sort of feeling that Indian money was as good as gone and that Indian claims were false and exaggerated and that something should be done. I want to mention this specific propaganda because, whatever position our government takes up on this issue, it is their duty and I shall request them most earnestly to counter this propaganda, to put India's case forward, which is a robust case and a good case, but it has never been put forward—the previous financial authorities had no interest in weakening the case of their own country against India. It is now only, and in the hands of my honourable friend, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, that we can confidently hope that such case as India has got will be put forward, that such wrong propaganda which is coming out will be put right. I had to take enormous trouble to counter some of this propaganda. I recall the very bold interview which Sardar Patel gave on this issue, in which he said that any Indian who talks of scaling down these sums which were taken from the blood and tears of the population of this country was a traitor to this country. It was the only effort of this kind, but it was an isolated effort; these were not the efforts of the then government of the country, the then government of the country was more interested in doing India down than in collecting the just dues and monies which were owing to India. What was this propaganda? Mr. Churchill, speaking in the parliamentary debates said that India was saved from the Nazis and from Japan. I have got the quotation here but I will not take up the time of the house reading it—in other words he said “Is there no consideration for all this? We did this for you, you gave us so many commodities worth about 1,800 crores. What does it matter? Call it off.” Mr. Churchill is a sinking sun in the world, he no longer counts, he lives in the 18th century, he is an ally of Kipling where he should go now. Nobody takes Mr. Churchill seriously in his own country now, but I am sorry that Mr. Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, did not on that occasion get up and say that this was not the official view of His Majesty's Government. On the contrary, Mr. Dalton has very recently made the declaration which I will bring to the notice of my honourable friend the Finance Minister in which he says that he knows of no misunderstanding between Britain and the United States as regards Britain's obligation under the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, particularly in regard to Britain's forthcoming negotiations in settlement of the sterling balances with India, Egypt and other countries. In other words, instead of assuring us and giving us the assurance which we sought from the government of the day at that time in February, 1946 that these debts were honourably incurred and they would be honourably repaid, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom in his recent visit—17th September—actually says that he will carry out in the negotiations which are going to take place with India the understandings and the undertakings and the obligations of the United Kingdom under the Anglo-American Loan Agreement. May I know whether our government have considered what these implications and obligations involve? I have already made reference to clauses 6 and 10 of those agreements which are highly pernicious, highly objectionable, from the point of view of India. It is true Sir Archibald Rowlands said that India is not bound by this agreement to which he was no party, but England contends that she is bound by it and England is about to negotiate with us. Let our government gather up all its strength and give a punch in the nose to the United Kingdom statesmen who want to impose on India obligations which they incurred behind our back in their negotiations with

the United States. They incurred those obligations for their own interests, they wanted a big loan and they got this loan and this was part of the terms which the United States imposed on the United Kingdom, and we are going now to be saddled with the full implications of these obligations.

The other point was that India had overcharged and profiteered. This is one of the issues which the Parliamentary Committee themselves have disposed of, and I am glad that in recent months nobody has said that India had overcharged. On the contrary, what are the facts? The tea which the United Kingdom population had during the last five years of the war was purchased at controlled prices in India between five and a half annas and eight annas—it was better tea, it was big leaf which we did not get in this country. Not only tea, but hides, jute, rubber, mica, manganese, groundnuts and numerous other articles were all taken up at controlled prices, so that the Indian producers got less. Not only His Majesty's Government and the allies, but the civilian population of the eastern group countries and of the United Kingdom got benefits out of this at our expense. After that, it is certainly remarkable if any country representatives can claim that India had overcharged them and the sterling balances represent an element of profiteering.

Now, Sir, we were told that Britain could not pay because they have no ability to pay. There again this argument was made much of until some of us pointed out that Britain had considerable assets in this country. In my country, when a debtor wanted to plead that he could not pay, he brought whatever he had and put it in front of the creditor and said "I have with great difficulty collected this. Please take this, and now consider some delay, some relief with regard to the balance." Did the United Kingdom do this? Did they ever have the decency to consider that vast British assets still exist in India itself and that it was just and right that these assets should be liquidated and handed over in discharge of the debt which was fastened on this country? Some of these assets are being sold now, and I am sorry to say that the capital realised in respect of these assets is, on account of the neglect of the Government of India, being worked off against the current liability of England for goods which she buys from here.

The question of scaling down was boosted so much that some of our own men, fifth columnists of India, who were under the dominant influence of Britishers in this country, actually came out with the idea that England cannot pay and let us give away 200 or 400 crores out of this money. Some of the so-called financial press of this country, I am sorry to say, was not independent or patriotic enough to take the right line, and some of the so-called economic press of this country also came out with this weakening idea—let us give away something. To which country were we trying to give away? We are here suffering from inflation, high prices, famines, floods, strike fever, unlawful activities on a scale unprecedented—and this poor country was being asked to give away nothing less than 200 or 400 crores merely because it was British propaganda. Now, it is the duty of our government to counter this propaganda. Is the United Kingdom a pauper country? Is it not in the forefront of all the European countries today in prosperity? Has it not already built up an export drive beyond their own expectations? Are they not already flourishing in a measure in which it would be ages before we bring up our country to that level? Is it right and just that arguments of that type ought to be put forward at any time? I expect that our Government and the stout hearted men of our Government who have taken charge of the finances of the country will never stand any nonsense of this kind from any quarter.

Then, Sir, there was another ramp in connection with this which I would like to bring to the notice of this House and of the Government. That was at the hands of the industrialists of this country. Now, Sir, I wish well of the industrialists so long as they remain within their proper sphere but no industrialists

[Mr Manu Subedar]
 could be allowed to interfere with the larger affairs of the country in a manner in which some of these fellows try to do. What was the driving force to them? Some of them were very anxious to bring some machinery and they wanted dollars. The British Government by a whispering campaign had created dollar scarcity artificially for this Government. I have shown in the third report, which I will not read and waste the time of the House but I will commend to all friends here to read a portion of that third report made by me in which I am showing how India's dollar position was and how we were artificially denied the use of those dollars, so much so that when men who spend here on their livelihood something like Rs. 100 a day, when they went to America they got two or three dollars a day. In other words, artificial scarcity of dollars was created by a whispering campaign amongst British officials of the Government of India and the industrialists outside who were denied even little things like small machinery which they wanted—they came out with the lamp—let us joint this bank and fund and also scale down the sterling balances if we get dollars immediately. In other words, the sterling balances belonging to the masses of this country were to be scaled down in order to meet the convenience of the short sighted industrialists who merely wanted then dollars. Sir, these short sighted men did not consider,—just as the Honourable the Finance Minister himself in his opening remarks—I trust that my Honourable friend will forgive me for saying so, that there are other means of getting dollars than merely from the bank, the new institution which is being instituted. That bank has very strict conditions, as my friend mentioned. I am not sure whether India will be eligible for loans from the bank. Anyway there are other means of getting dollars from what we may call the normal banking channel of the U S A. I had a talk with important American bankers and I pointed out to them that we had no debt owing to anybody outside. We had considerable assets in the United Kingdom. I asked—don't you consider us a fit and proper party to borrow from America for our immediate purposes so long as we spend the money in America for equipment and he said—Not only would I consider you fit but I would be most anxious to give such advances to India. In other words the immediate dollar need could be met by other means but did the Government of the previous day, their predecessors, did they ever try to negotiate with the United States for a free loan from the normal channel? They would not. Why? Because they wanted to create an artificial scarcity of dollars in this country in order to get the industrialists worked up, in order to get them to support Britain's proposals with regard to the scaling down of the sterling balances as well as with regard to the membership of these two institutions.

Now, Sir, I was told by an official whom I will not name, as he is not here to answer me, "we could join this bank. You say it is an international experiment and might fail. We will guard ourselves by taking as much loan as our subscription is." Sir, I listened to him and I laughed just as some of my friends are laughing here. This cannot safeguard India. A solvent debtor has got to pay even when the creditor institution fails. And then, Sir, Sri Chintaman Deshmukh was with us on the last occasion. I have great regard for him and I feel that he means well. He said we have got a provision for coming out of this institution any time we like and a mere intimation in writing to our representative in the U S A. would do the trick and any obligations which the bank may incur from that date will not be binding and we shall give instructions to our representative to see that our resignation is handed in as soon as loans were proposed which in our view would not be forthcoming and which would be risky and dangerous loans. I think this is a device which we could still use if the occasion came. My Honourable friend mentioned which other countries would borrow—the war ravaged countries whose capacity to pay is limited by the fact that the destruction caused by the war cannot be replaced by human

agency for a century and also by the fact that in their own country there is no settled government. Take China. I have great feeling for the Chinese people. I would like to help but there is some difficulty. Take Greece, the pet of Mr. Churchill, for whom he would try to get vast sums. As a matter of fact the United Kingdom, even when they had no money to pay us, gave a free gift of ten million sterling to Greece only about three months ago. Greece is in the throes of difficulties. So also is France, between communists on the one hand and the other parties on the other. The Polish people can be hardly regarded as settled down. Italy is in a horrible condition politically. It is these countries whom you would select for giving your money. I say that there is a certain amount of risk involved in these international experiments and we may take the risk fully when our own money is freed but whether we should take the risk now is a matter on which I must say, with all respect, I differ from the Honourable the Finance Member.

Now, we were told that India would default if we did not pay subscriptions now. If we remain members, naturally we pay the subscription and rather than be called defaulters we would come out of the bank for the time being without any serious harm but this defaulting idea as applied to India is again very funny. When we were owing England sterling loans, my friend K. T. Shah raised the issue and rightly too whether some of these loans were rightly chargeable to India and whether we could not refuse some of them. Immediately there was a hullabaloo and a suggestion was made that India was trying to default and to repudiate public debt but the same United Kingdom did not pay war debts incurred in the previous war to the United States. Germany took enormous sums both from America and the United Kingdom after the last war and did not pay one pie. In other words other countries could do these things and nothing happens. It is poor India who is always pointed out with the finger. India is the culprit when there is any question of defaulting. India cannot suit her own convenience or judge her own time to go and join these institutions.

Now, Sir, the motion before the House involves not only the bank but the fund. Many things would have to be done about the fund and I am not sure of what has been done. In view of what the Honourable the Finance Member said I would not ask him to give an explanation straightaway or make a statement but I do think that before the close of the session he should take a special occasion to enlighten some of us on these points, either in the House or outside.

Sir, the position is that India is a highly inflated country. Our prices have risen from 100, roughly speaking, to 300. The American prices have risen from 100 to 143 and the English prices have risen from 100 to 174. In this situation is this the best time to fix external parity as my Honourable friend said? He said: Is it not an advantage to have a mechanism for fixing the exchanges of the world? I admit it is an advantage, but if I have a choice between internal stability and foreign exchange, I would not hesitate for a moment that it is internal stability which I want, because it is the inflation in India which is the papa and mama of all the strikes and of all the economic distresses. I would say, in so far as economic distress could lead to lawlessness, even the lawlessness from which the country suffers is due to high inflation. The welfare of the poor wage-earner, of the man with fixed income, the welfare of your vast body of teachers and State servants and others is a matter of some importance, and I want to get internal stability of this country first. It is worth while to pay something for this.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural). Even sterling balances!

Mr. Manu Subedar: You speak when your turn comes.

Now, Sir, on what basis are we going to fix the par of exchange which we are required to fix some time, I think, in the middle of December? Are we going to fix it on the existing gold prices in the United States, in India and in the United Kingdom? According to the prices at present prevailing for gold in the United Kingdom and in the United States, those are not the prices of free

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

gold, those are the prices on which the Government buys but it does not sell, though I do not understand how the British Government gave to Australia no less than 26 million sterling during the last 12 months in gold. Anyway, the price of gold as defined in the United States is 35 dollars an ounce and in the United Kingdom it is £8-12-6. According to these prices, the gold, apart from the cost of transport, insurance, etc., would be roughly half the price of gold ruling in this country. Are you going to assume that your prices shall be as high as they are now, namely, from 100 to 300 and still threatening to rise? Are you going to assume that price level as permanent? Are you going to bring down the value of gold in this country to half of what it is now and then fix the par of exchange or in what way are you going to fix it? What is the provision which you are making with regard to these internal prices? Government's own policy with regard to the exchange control, capital control and several other kinds of controls is not yet finally settled. It is still undetermined. Meanwhile, the price levels of different countries are different. I could not trade with the world if my prices are very high everybody can sell to me but I cannot sell to anybody. This is the position which we have to consider.

Sir, I pointed out to the previous Finance Member and I point out to our friend, the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan now, that this Government does not even possess full information about the exchanges. While we are trying to set up and, as a member of the Monetary Fund, to have complete control over the exchange, we do not know who buys how much exchange and for what purpose except in the matter of dollars and hard currency, where the Reserve Bank is exercising a very strict control. But with regard to other purposes, as I pointed out before, the Britishers are selling off capital goods here and they are converting the money realised by them into sterling. This money is not falling into the hands of the Reserve Bank, it goes to the Chartered Bank and is set off against the trade bills which the Chartered Bank has received in connection with current transactions.

And lastly, and this is very important, there is a certain amount of speculative activity in the field now. Speculation is the bane of society. My Honourable friend who wants to abolish all speculation has got the just and correct instinct, but I think even if you cannot abolish it, you can certainly check it and there is no field in which speculation can play greater havoc than in the field of exchange. And yet this Government has not yet woken up to their full difficulties and responsibilities in this matter and I commend these ideas to them. My Honourable friend Dr. John Matthai very acutely and shrewdly sent a circular round to the Chambers of Commerce and others to give them ideas as to what should be the par of exchange. He may have as well sent round the Finance Secretary into the Connaught Circus and instructed him to ask every passerby as to what his idea was of the par of exchange. No useful information will be received by this Government, in my opinion, by this method, though of course, technically it was befitting a democratic government that they were trying to take people into their confidence.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) Was not your opinion asked for?

Mr. Manu Subedar: It was asked for but they have not yet received it; they will have it when they want it.

Now, Sir, Dr. Dalton has recently said—and this is another thing which I must put to the Honourable the Finance Member—what steps have Government of India taken to increase the gold resources of the Reserve Bank? If you are going into this Fund and if you are going to accept dollar or gold as the standard by which you will stand and through which you will defray all your obligations incurred in the course of trade or capital movements, how much gold resources should the Reserve Bank have? In my opinion what they have is very meagre. What steps have the Government of India taken in this direction? Dr. Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of no less a country than the

United Kingdom with all this dollar loan in its pocket, is still worried about this very point. He says

"As we move into a period when sterling will once more become freely convertible in respect of current trading, we shall need large reserves of gold and dollars. We must, therefore, keep such reserves well built up now, even at the cost of continuing deliberate and sometimes severe restriction on imports."

Now, Sir, if a country of the order of the United Kingdom is worried on this point, is it not right that the Government of India should itself take some steps? Are the Government aware that all those little shopkeepers who have made money during these times on account of the scarcity of goods are ordering recklessly? They are ordering anything, anyhow and at any price because they have the money in the Bank. Now, if these chaotic conditions continue, have Government realised what the position of India would be as a member of the Fund into which we are going. I do not want to say it in any nasty or sarcastic spirit. I am sure the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan will take very prompt steps to have all these issues cleared and brought before him and I am sure he will take decisions which are in the highest interests of this country. Now, Sir, what is wanted in this country is the stabilisation of internal prices and then to bring them down a little. That, in my opinion, is of much more overwhelming importance but that cannot be done until we are through that sterling balance issue, because the bulk of the sterling balances are the basic reserve against our currency. In any case, Sir, as the Honourable the Finance Member has mentioned to us, very early steps are being taken in order to negotiate with the United Kingdom, one thing is satisfactory. It was Mr. Molotov who said at the beginning of the United Nations conference that he wanted to hear the voice of free India. It is the voice of free India which Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit and Mr. Chagla, with whom I had the privilege of long friendship, it is the voice of free India in the shape of these persons that has made itself felt in international fields. I am not opposed to India participating in international institutions, on the contrary, I am a great enthusiast for it. I feel that in due course, and in due time, India will take her place according to her size and conditions and not be tied to the apron strings of the United Kingdom as in the old days, but freely and independently. Nothing makes me more happy to feel than the fact that no more deputations from this country will be headed by Englishmen, no more deputations of the kind which we had in the last and most disastrous one, the Waugh deputation which went to America and got us a settlement which was not a settlement, even Shylock could not have got more out of us than United States had made from her deal with India over the lease-lend transaction. I will not put before the House now, but before this session is over, the House will hear more about it, anyway it is a matter of profound satisfaction that no more Englishman will lead a deputation from this country and particularly that on the sterling balances personnel. In my country, generally it is the debtor who goes to the creditor's door and I hope my Honourable friend will be able to arrange accordingly. But if it is not so, then I take it that any deputation from India will be led by the stout and patriotic man whom we have got in charge of India's finances—I mean stout hearted. Sir, as I said we want to husband our own resources and to put the economy of this country right. This issue of international institutions is irrevocably bound up with not only the question of sterling balances but the issue of price levels in this country, the issue of the price of gold and the par value of the rupee in terms of gold and many other issues, and unless our Government had a complete picture, they would not be able to come to the right and the final decision. I trust therefore, that some of the ideas which I have placed in no spirit of controversy or carping criticism but as a help, as a humble help from one who has been watching these financial chess boards for many years very closely, I hope Sir, that some of the ideas which I have placed will be used by the Government when the time comes. I commend them to their attention.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies). Mr. President, Sir, I listened with very great interest to the speech which has just been delivered by my old friend and college fellow, Mr. Manu Subedar

[Dr John Matthai]

The main point that Mr Manu Subedar made this afternoon is the point to which he has referred more than once in the speeches and the reports which he has made in this House from time to time on the Bretton Woods questions. Now, Sir, I am entirely in sympathy with him as regards all that he said about the sterling balances proper. I think our delegates at the Bretton Woods conference put up an extremely able and extremely competent case for bringing international indebtedness arising out of the war within the scope of the International Monetary Fund. But their efforts did not unfortunately succeed for no fault of theirs. For the time being, we have got to accept that as a settled fact and the question therefore that we have to consider this afternoon is, taking the position which has been arrived at as regards the relation of the operations of the International Monetary Fund to the question of liquidating the international debts which were created by the war, taking that as an accomplished fact, are we or are we not going to ratify our membership of the International Fund and the International Bank? This, I want to say, as regards the sterling balances both as a member of the present Government and also as a student interested in these problems. I have, for many years past, had opportunities of examining with some care the demands which have been put up from time to time by the financial press in the United Kingdom regarding the scaling down of the sterling balances. Since I became a member of the Government I have had certain special opportunities for examining the data bearing upon this question of the scaling down of sterling balances. I do not mind saying that it is my considered opinion on such data as I have been able to examine, that by no conceivable process of reasoning can there be a demand for the scaling down of these balances and I think it ought to be the endeavour of whoever happens to represent this country in the forthcoming discussions to take as firm and as determined a stand as the facts warrant.

Mr Manu Subedar referred to the question of inflation and the hearing it has on the problem of determining the par value of our currency. I certainly agree with him that the question of internal level of prices is a question of primary and first class importance. We are of course rather at a disadvantage in tackling this question of internal level of prices because as Mr Manu Subedar pointed out, it is bound up to a very large extent with the problem of sterling balances. But apart from that, I feel and I realise deeply the enormous obligation that rests upon the Government of this country to apply whatever remedies lie in their power to cure the inflation which now prevails in the country, and unless we are in a position at any rate to check a further increase in the level of prices, unless we make up our minds to cut in and break this vicious circle, unless we do that, the social and economic problems that we shall be faced with in the near future would be almost beyond our powers to tackle.

Now, Sir, apart from these questions, I want today to tell the House the simple straightforward lines on which for myself I have come to the conclusion that in spite of all the arguments that may be urged against it, it is in our interest to ratify our membership of both these international institutions. I realise that when we go into the International Fund as a member we are facing some risk. We are going to do that with our eyes open. The risk is this that we are accepting a certain amount of restriction upon our freedom of action regarding adjustment of the external value of our currency. It is a restriction which conceivably may act to our detriment in certain circumstances. You will

remember Sir, that fifteen years ago the industries of this country were up against very severe competition from abroad, and some of our leading industries were very nearly wiped out of existence. It was not merely our industries but our agriculture also was up against severe competition from abroad. You will remember that there was a time when we had to impose an import duty on wheat in order to protect the growers of wheat in the Punjab and the U P and a duty on rice from Siam and Indo-China in order to protect our rice growers. Suppose a time comes again when we are up against competition of this kind, when our industries are faced with severe opposition and our

agriculture is also faced with severe competition. There are two remedies that are open to us in conditions of that kind. It is open to us to suitably adjust the external value of our currency, because in many cases it does operate as a safeguard against competition from other countries. The other remedy of course is protection. As regards adjusting the external value of the rupee as a means of safeguarding our industrial and agricultural interests, it may be admitted straightaway that certain real limitations will be placed upon us if we accept membership of the Fund. There is no getting away from that. But my answer to this question is this,—and I have given a great deal of thought to it. Suppose that kind of competition arises, that it continues for a prolonged period and continues on a scale which makes it difficult for us to carry on our industries and our agriculture at a normal level, I feel pretty convinced in my own mind that there would be a strong case we could put up before the International Fund for adjusting our currency on the ground that those conditions constitute what on any reasonable basis may be described as a fundamental disequilibrium. Suppose it was not a question of prolonged competition, but sporadic competition, competition that arises now here and now there, but does not last for a long period. Then obviously we have got this remedy of protection either by tariffs or by subsidies. I want to say a thing or two on that because that is a matter which is likely to provoke misunderstanding. It is in close relation to the proposal of an international fund that the United States of America have made the proposal for an international trade organisation. The two things hang together. As far as we are concerned, the position that we are going to take up is this.

We accept as an ultimate objective for this country free-movement of trade,—multilateralism as it is called, in matters of trade. As an ultimate objective we are prepared to do that because, as my colleague the Finance Member pointed out, world prosperity is prosperity that can be achieved only by the co-operation of all the countries concerned with it.

Supposing we have to do this, that is to say, we find ourselves faced with the question of giving protection to our industries in a time of acute competition, the line that we are going to take is this. As one of the backward countries of the world we hold that whatever our ultimate objective may be, during a transitional period, which may be short or long, we propose to reserve entirely our right to take whatever measures in the way of protection we consider necessary for the safeguarding of our industrial and agricultural interests.

Whatever assurances we may give at this international trade conference which is coming off next year in America, we are not going to surrender our right to take whatever measures may be required during the transitional period for raising the status of this country in economic matters so that it may approximate in time to the status of other countries of the world.

I may be told that I profess faith in free movement of trade as the ultimate objective and at the same time I want also a fairly extensive use of the expedient of protection, there is an obvious inconsistency and I may be told, if I put that forward in an international conference, that this is oriental duplicity. I want to say this. We are beginning to realise in the internal economy of a country that it is not merely an increase in the aggregate income of a country that makes for its prosperity, but also, the way that that increased income is going to be distributed, because it is only by a wider and more equitable distribution of the national income that you can create that high level of purchasing power which is the stimulus to all economic activity. That analogy in my opinion applies equally to international economics. You are not going to raise the standard of world prosperity by simply increasing the aggregate income of the world, what you have got to do if you want to achieve world prosperity in a reasonable period of time is to see that that aggregate income is fairly distributed among the various countries of the world. It is only on that basis that we can proceed to achieve all the objectives which international institutions of this kind have before them.

As regards the question of the Bank I want to say quite frankly that there are certain aspects of it which sometimes give me quite a degree of concern.

[Dr John Mattha]

Mr Manu Subedar rightly points out in the dissenting minutes which he has attached to the interim report that we are going to face a risk in case of our membership of the Bank in this way that if after a period of years when loans have been given to the devastated countries of Europe a situation arises somewhat similar to the situation which arose in Europe about 10 or 15 years ago when the loans granted to the European countries got frozen, then the reserve liability which we accept in respect of the Bank which would amount to somewhere about 105 crores of rupees, the Bank would be required to meet calls made on it as and when required. If these calls could be met in our own currency the position would not be too bad. But when calls are made on our reserve liability the provision is that those calls would have to be met in gold or in dollars or in any other currency which might be required by the Bank. I admit we are undertaking here a risk, but in spite of that I am prepared to go into the Bank for this reason. We are one of the original members of the Bank. I do not want to attach too much importance to the status of an original member, but at any rate it carries the right of our having an appointed as distinct from an elected director. It gives us certain privileges as regards the currency in which our funds in these institutions are held. But our greatest safeguard, it seems to me with regard to seeing that the affairs of the Bank are carried on fairly, is that we happen to be the holder of one of the largest quotas, and since voting power is related to quota, although we might not be able to play anything like a decisive part, our representatives would have an effective voice in determining the kind of operations in which the Bank might be involved. The main point about the Bank is this. Mr Manu Subedar raised the question why do you want to go into this Bank? Why don't you try and raise your loans in the ordinary way as businessmen would do? That is a possibility that we are entitled to consider and we ought to consider. But I was looking at the question in relation to the circumstances which prevail today in the United States of America. I do not know if my Honourable friend, knows that out of about six or seven European countries which had applied to the Export-Import Bank of America for accommodation, as soon as the Bank was organised and started operations these applications, either wholly or partially, were transferred from the Export-Import Bank to the International Bank because they considered that the International Bank was the proper financial institution for helping these countries. I am not speaking with any particular authority on that question, but I believe, as regards the Export Import Bank of America, that you cannot get a loan from the Export-Import Bank except on the basis of what they call a 'tied loan', in other words if you get a loan from the Export Import Bank in America you have got to spend that loan in America. That provision is perfectly all right as far as we concerned in the next few years, because if you want to get capital goods, for all your industries it is very likely that we shall have to go in a large measure to the United States of America. But it is conceivable that a time may come fairly soon when countries on the Continent of Europe could produce machinery of equal efficiency at lower cost than the United States of America. Supposing a situation of that kind arises, and it is extremely probable it may, then it seems to me it is much better that we go to an institution from which we can get accommodation which would be utilizable in any country of the world. I consider the positive advantage of this Bank is that it is a supplementary source of external finance of the highest importance and value to this country. We cannot afford any longer to be tied down to any particular country of the world for the capital goods that we want. We must be in a position to go to any country in the world where we can get the best equipment and the best skill on the best possible terms, and therefore unless you can get external finance of a kind which can be made available in any country of the world, you are not going to achieve the purpose that you have in view. I do not mean for a moment to say that all our requirements of external finance would be met in this way, but I do think it might provide us with a considerable supplementary source of external finance which is not to be despised.

My main reason in spite of all considerations to the contrary for finally coming to the conclusion that we should decide to join, is the provision of which Mr Manu Subedar seems to make light, regarding the right of withdrawal. It is possible for us simply by giving notice to withdraw from the Fund. As far as the Fund is concerned, I believe we can withdraw without any sort of continuing liability. We cannot withdraw from the Bank quite with that kind of facility because when you withdraw from the Bank you have got to accept a *pro rata* liability for the obligations which the Bank undertook up to the date of your withdrawal. That of course is a risk. The way I react to it is this. If at any time our representatives on the Governing Board and the Directorate of the Bank feel that things are moving in a direction which is likely to result in serious difficulties to the Bank then we should make it our duty to withdraw from the Bank. As regards the Fund if we find that the Fund is of little use to us, or that it is placing upon us an undue amount of restriction regarding our freedom of action in these matters, then we should withdraw. As regards the Bank again if we find that it is of little use to us, or that it is placing upon us an amount of liability which may land us in difficulties then also we should withdraw. If we do that, it seems to me the risk involved could be greatly minimized. I think, Sir, I have covered most of the points that are really relevant to the subject.

On this question of sterling balances there is one thing more I want to say and with that I resume my seat. My colleague, the Finance Member, has already stated the general view of Government regarding it. We are not by any means happy that the liquidation of the sterling balances was not brought within the purview of the International Fund, we are not by any means happy at the views which we find often expressed in the financial papers of other countries regarding the extent to which these obligations should be honoured. I think on behalf of Government I can give the assurance that we would do all that lies in our power to see that the fullest justice is done to India's rights. It would be our aim to see that as large a portion of these balances as possible is released as freely convertible currency in the shortest possible period, and that whatever balance is left should be funded over for as short a period as possible at a rate of interest which could be regarded as reasonable. Sir, I have no hesitation in asking the House to accept the motion before it.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal European). Mr President, this as you know is not the first time that the question of the Bretton Woods Agreements has come before this House. We devoted a considerable amount of time in the last Session to this subject and the Select Committee has held a number of meetings from the last of which emerged the third interim report. Although I had the honour to represent the European Group on the Committee, I was not able to attend the last meeting which produced this report and the minority vote by my Honourable friend, Mr Manu Subedar. But this debate does give me an opportunity of associating myself personally, and my group, with the major recommendations of the Committee. I think we all agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that it is a good thing that this Assembly should decide the issue of continuing membership of the Bank and the Fund finally once and for all, instead of the matter coming up periodically and being dealt with in instalments as has been the case up till now.

I and my colleagues in the European Group fully associate ourselves with the desire of the Honourable Mr Liaquat Ali Khan that so far as an irrevocable decision can now be made, it should be made. Furthermore, Sir, we take our stand on the principle, which I put forward on our behalf when this subject was first brought before the House some months ago, that India's membership of the Fund and the Bank should first, last and all the time be in the interests of India herself and not in the interests of India *plus* any one other country or group of countries. One has to remember, of course in that connection, as Dr. Mathai has pointed out, and as I think the Honourable the Finance Member pointed out also that membership of the Fund does imply a certain limitation of monetary sovereignty. But that limitation is no more and no less than that

[Mr Geoffrey W. Tyson]

it will be voluntarily assumed by some 29 or 30 other countries who are adhering to the agreement. When the Committee had produced its second interim report—the one before the report which is now before the House—it laid down some fairly stringent conditions which it wished should be observed if India continued to be a member of the Fund. I think anybody who has read the third interim report will agree that those conditions have been fulfilled, and that in so far as the further payments of India's subscriptions to the Bank and the Fund are contingent upon the fulfilment of those conditions, then India is entitled, and the House is entitled to recommend the Government to go ahead and make the necessary payments with a clear conscience.

Mr Liaquat Ali Khan rightly stressed what we may call, one of the secondary aspects of this debate. I have already said that primarily India goes into the Fund as a measure of self-interest and self-protection. The Honourable the Finance Member emphasized quite early in his speech, that India's prosperity, that her monetary stability, that an increase in her national income and all the other various other manifestations of economic satisfaction were dependent upon a similar state of affairs generally prevailing amongst the other countries of the world. For that reason, quite apart from the reasons of self-interest, he said that constituted very good grounds for India making her adherence to the Fund and the Bank clear and unequivocal from now onwards.

I would like also by way of emphasis from the purely Indian point of view, to mention what my friend the Honourable the Finance Member probably already knows, to recall to the House that in a recent statement the Governor of the Reserve Bank predicted that India would probably have to apply for an increased quota under the Fund if her trade continued to expand and to enlarge at the rate which he envisaged. Well, there we have a cogent argument at the purely technical level which seems to me to be decisively in favour of making the decision for which the Government of India are asking us today.

It would, I suppose, have been imprudent to expect that we would get through a debate in this context without some sustained reference to the question of the sterling balances with which my friend, Mr Manu Subedar has dealt exhaustively on this and on previous occasions. In the circumstances, I would like, if I may, on behalf of my colleagues, to make it clear to the new Government which has assumed its seats in this House today, that we of the European Group, recognise fully and clearly that the future trade atmosphere—and it is that in which we are chiefly interested as representatives of what is mainly a merchant community—between the two countries depends to a very large extent upon a settlement of the question of the sterling balances—a settlement which will be practicable, that will be honourable and far-minded from the point of view of both countries. I have said before in this House, and I say it again for all my colleagues, that if a settlement possessing those qualities, can be arrived at—and to my mind there is no reason why it should not—it will do much to cement the commercial relations between the two countries in the years that lie ahead of us.

A great deal of apprehension, and not unnaturally, has been expressed about the implications of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement and their bearing upon the question of India's sterling assets. My honourable friend, Mr Manu Subedar, quoted today, as he has quoted before, clauses 6 and 10 of that Agreement. I would like to point out to him because he sees in clause 10 (a), (b) and (c) what I must assume he regards as a very real danger to India, that that paragraph of the Loan Agreement really only makes suggestions and recommendations for the general pattern of the settlement of accumulated war sterling balances. There is so far as I understand the position, nothing obligatory at all in that particular clause. What is obligatory is that His Majesty's Government undertakes to commence negotiations, within a certain specified time and in each case from the date of the signature on the Agreement, and Section 10 (a), (b) and (c) is merely a suggested pattern of the method by which the sterling accumulate war debts can be settled; and I think my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, and my Honourable friends Dr Matthai and Mr Manu Subedar will regard it as significant that

in the admittedly much smaller case of Argentine there has been no question of scaling down the debt. So far as I know, no pressure was ever applied to the Argentine Government to scale down any part of the debt and certainly in the final draft of the Anglo-Argentine Agreement, as it has emerged, there is no provision for any scaling down. Quite apart from any moral or sentimental considerations India may take heart from that fact. Now, Sir, only a very brief reference in the course of debate has been made to some of the other ancillary aspects of the decision, if this House takes it, finally to adhere to the Fund and the Bank. Sir, certain important departures in policy are likely to take place in the future. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar drew attention to the fact that India will have to communicate to the Fund the external parity of the rupee by some date in December—I think the 12th or the 16th. He also drew attention to the fact that commercial sections of opinion had been invited to express their views to the Finance Department, and for once I find myself in entire agreement with him when he says that the method employed will not produce results of which the Finance Department could make any more than proximate use. Actually the invitation to individuals and associations, irrespective of their ability or qualifications, for the purpose of expressing opinions on the future of rupee parity has led, as my Honourable friend has pointed out, to a country-wide debate from which, he will agree with me, the honest merchant or the honest trader will not benefit at all. The man who has benefitted by this debate is the man who is building up a speculative position in rupees and sterling. I think there are two or three days left for the Finance Department to receive opinions, but I do entirely endorse Mr. Manu Subedar's request that sometime during this session this House should be given an opportunity to consider important matters such as the external parity of the rupee. There will also be the amendment of the Reserve Bank Act, Sections 40 and 41, or its abolition arising out of the agreement and various other matters which up to now have only been the subject of loose and somewhat informal debate. If we are later on to be given an opportunity of expressing our views on those aspects of the agreement which I have mentioned, which are only incidentally before the House today, I will not now attempt to state our case on matters which are largely technical in character but I will merely reiterate what I have already said, namely that we on these benches entirely support the decision of Government, if a decision it has to be, to adhere finally and once for all to the Fund and the Bank. We endorse the line of policy which has been indicated, namely that India's membership shall be operated in India's interests primarily and on behalf of my colleagues I commend this resolution to the House.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan)]

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, there is a difference in the atmosphere in which this question was substantially debated last January and April and the atmosphere in which we are discussing it now but the merits of the case have not changed at all and I agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that the issue should be considered from one supreme but simple point of view and that is, is it in the best interests of this country to continue our membership of the Brettonwoods institutions? Mr. Deputy President, that was exactly the ~~test~~ that, speaking for myself, I put up before me to judge the merits of the case both in the month of January as well as in the month of April. I am glad that the point of view that I then pressed has now become unanimously acceptable. At that time the question of sterling balances was given much more importance than it deserved. The same thing is done today. Although I do not agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that this question has no relevance to the main motion that is under discussion, I will not say that it is so important relatively speaking, as to affect our judgment on the merits of the proposition that is before us. In fact I was led to consider that I should support the membership of India both with respect to the International Bank and the International Fund for the simple reason that it would help us in clearing our

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sterling balances. The position then was this. India had accumulated, as has been stated by my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar, huge sterling balances. It had two aspects then and it has two aspects now—financial as well as trade. Our representatives at the Brettonwoods institutions knew India's need, especially in the matter of expanding Indian industries. They wanted multilateral convertibility of a portion of the sterling balances. If England then was not willing for one reason or the other, there must be some agency or some mechanism by the use of which this could be secured. I submit, Mr Deputy President, that from that point of view these two institutions are the agencies with the help of which we could and we can secure what we want. India's need today is capital goods. India wants industrial expansion. India wants to import machinery. Now it is possible that India may not get machinery of the requisite quality in sufficient quantity from England. Are we to wait if we cannot get it from England, because England is not prepared? If that is the only way of getting a solution of our sterling balances, then there must be a complete stop to our industrial expansion. But the Articles of the Bank lay down that in the case of countries which are industrially less developed the Bank will come and help them in order to develop industrially. The Bank will help these and also countries which have suffered on account of war. In the Minute of Dissent which has been written by my friend Mr Manu Subedar he seems to be under the misapprehension that special regard is to be paid only to the reconstruction of the countries overrun by the war whereas I find from the Articles, that it is clearly one of the objects or purposes of the Bank to help "in the encouragement and the development of productive facilities and resources in less developed countries." And as regards the actual allotment of resources, in article 3 (1), it is laid down—

"The resources and facilities of the Bank shall be used exclusively for the benefit of members with equitable consideration—a phrase that has now become very popular for projects of new development and projects of reconstruction alike."

My submission is that if we fail to get any satisfactory solution of our sterling balances from England, we cannot wait indefinitely for the industrial expansion of this country. We must find out credit elsewhere. That private credit is not available or cannot be made available in the way in which credits from this bank are available has been made amply clear by the Honourable Dr John Mathai. If India wants to take her proper place in the international sphere, it is not enough that she should have it only in the political sphere. Trade is the source of all prosperity. More trade, more industry, more production and more employment, and the result is less poverty. Today our country is faced with poverty, ignorance, squalor, the three enemies as they were described by the Finance Member who was in charge of this country's finance in 1935. January. Although that Finance Member has gone, the enemies are still there. The only way in which we can fight them is to increase the prosperity of the country, by increasing the trade both internal and external, and we can only do that if we can increase production, and if we increase production we do increase employment. One of the objects of the fund and one of the objects of the bank also is full employment. That is not possible unless there is more industrialisation and more industrialisation is not possible unless India is equipped with necessary capital goods. In the course of the last six years, industrial plant in this country has not been kept up to date because it had probably no opportunity or could not possibly replace and repair some of its parts, owing to shortage of supply. That leeway has got to be made up, *plus* we want to advance further. If that is to be done, it can only be done as things stand today—by building heavy industries and if we want to have heavy industries we must import necessary material and necessary machinery from other countries. Why should we depend upon one country in this matter? We should take advantage of such machinery through the agency of which we can buy, where we can get the best and at a fair cost. Therefore from this point of view our membership is absolutely necessary. I agree that there is some risk, but in what banking is there no risk? In every banking enterprise

the risk is there, but at the same time if we go carefully through the provisions of the banks constitution as they are embodied in the final Act, I respectfully submit the risks are considerably lessened

As regards the membership of the fund, I find my friend Mr Subedar has not now the same intensity of objection which he had in last January, and in April. You cannot have foreign trade unless there is exchange stability and we know what want of exchange stability means. The history of Indian currency is enough proof how the masses have been ruined because there has been no stability of exchange. If we are to profit by experience, if we are not to discard experience as the wisdom of the unlettered, let us go to any place which secures stability of exchange and let us not be swayed by sentimental considerations. Let us consider this subject calmly and coolly and as was suggested by the Finance Member in the best interests of this country.

As regards the sterling balances the Honourable Finance Member I am sure may be knowing that during the Bretton Woods Conference the British representative Lord Keynes stated that 'when the end is reached and we can see our way into the daylight, we shall take it up without any delay to settle honourably what was honourably and generously given'. The point has been raised today as was raised in April and January last, and in all the meetings of the *ad hoc* committee, that clauses 6 and 10 of the Anglo-American agreement have prejudiced the Indian case. The position is very simple. If two men settle between themselves, that agreement is binding only on them. How can it bind me a third party? Therefore I do not attach any importance to whether the agreement was negotiated in my presence or behind my back. So long as I am not a party to it, I am not bound by it, and as was stated by the Finance Member in January very clearly, that there was no intention of sealing down whatsoever. Difficulties will arise. I know, in settling this question of sterling balances. The Honourable Finance Member may well remember that there are British owned assets in this country. When he goes there with his stout body and stouter heart, he may remember that there are British assets in this country. As regards an exact estimate of these assets, there is a difference of opinion. Mr Birla calculates them at £1,000 millions. The Statist of London calculated them at £1,100 millions roughly. The Associated Chambers of Commerce in their evidence before the Simon Commission gave an estimate approximately the same that has been given by Mr Birla. To take the most modest estimate which has been given by Professor Sheno in his latest book, 'The Sterling Assets of the Reserve Bank of India' it comes to £820 millions. The sterling balances, whatever they are today, and whatever they may be when negotiations actually start, the Honourable Member for Finance will, I am sure, have a scheme of priority as to how these balances should be cleared, whether he would put the taking over of the British assets as the first item or whether he would put the purchase of capital goods from England of such quality and in such quantity as the requirements of this country justify, or whether, if he agrees with—I cannot say Sir but Dr Ziauddin Ahmad, who is always enamoured of gold—would like to have it in gold—whether it is in goods or gold or in the form of assets, but both from the economic point of view and also from the political point of view if you ask my personal opinion, I would give the first priority to taking over the assets of those who are now opposing us both in appearance and in reality. It does not mean that we have any enmity against them. We have given them enough during 150 years, and if we sit down for really making up accounts, I do not know what huge sums will be found against them when a complete balance sheet is drawn up. But I do not want to refer to the past. But whatever assets they have now must be taken over because to allow foreign capital in one's country without any limitation and when there is no need for it is to invite political trouble if not further ill. Mr Deputy President, at the time of the third interim report when it was drafted we were assured by His Majesty's Government that they were very anxious to open negotiations. I am glad that the Finance Member today said that they would start as early as possible and he was good enough, lest he should be misunderstood, to explain that the phrase 'as early' meant as

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early. There are pressing problems which will not stand delay. In this country we have famine commission and the agricultural commission recommended certain schemes and every time those schemes have been shelved. It is not that we do not know how to frame schemes. The real difficulty is how to put it into action, how to translate it in deeds. In other words it really means how to get the material to implement the schemes. No scheme for the removal of Indian poverty can be conceived unless this main question of the sterling balances is solved. I therefore submit that as the Finance Member is conscious of the urgency of this problem he will tackle it and I am glad that he said that in spite of the composition of the Government he will solve it as befits this country. He said that poverty spreads, if one country is poor, the other countries of the world are bound to be poor. I would add simply that prosperity has no limits. If poverty is a crime prosperity is a virtue and I ask the Finance Member to enable us, poor masses to conquer poverty and secure for us an opportunity to be virtuous—prosperous. So far as he and I are concerned, I am learner. Help us to put on a little more fat. The other day in the press interview he said that his policy would be not to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. I entirely agree with him but that policy cannot be implemented by merely giving expression to it on occasions both irrelevant and irrelevant and as he said it is time for action, let him take any action which will remove poverty of this country. Let him take any action which will drive out the illiteracy of this country. Let him take any action which will remove the squalor. He will find that whatever may be the difference of opinion, whatever may be happening outside this House at least in this House he will have the unanimous support of every one of us. I hope that the way in which he has moved his proposition and the line which he has adopted in moving that proposition is bound to meet with general approval of this House and I am glad that the way in which this proposition has been framed finally disposes of this question. For the last nine months we have been agitating for it. At one stage we were almost inclined to move for withdrawal from the institutions and I almost fell a prey to the eloquence of my friend Mr. Mann Subedar but somehow or other my native commonsense got the better of my sentiment and ultimately I was able to persuade the gentleman from the South and also Dr. Zia Uddin who was always with me and our Chairman of that particular meeting, Mr. Neogy and we made this report and we saved membership and avoided default. I hope now, after, having secured approval the Finance Member, in fact, whole Government will act and go ahead and do what we expect of it.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I was very delighted to hear from one of the members of the Treasury Bench that the stabilisation of prices should be one of the foremost aims of the financial policy of the Government of India. On the 16th February, 1932 I pressed that the stabilisation of prices should be the foremost aim of the monetary policy of the Government. At that time the Finance Member paid no attention to my request and I must acknowledge that I did not have a single supporter in the Assembly. My friend who is a trained economist will remember that before the war the prosperity of every country was judged by the favourable balance of trade. India had a very favourable balance of trade amounting to about 50 crores per annum before the war. After the last war Germany had a very favourable balance of trade but its currency broke down, it was on the verge of ruin. The condition of Germany and other countries in Central Europe forced the economists to think that the stability of exchange should be the foremost object of the financial policy of every country. This theory had cost us 213 crores in our efforts to stabilise the exchange at unnatural ratio. After a great deal of useless struggle about the stabilisation of exchange, it was set at rest in 1926 when the exchange was fixed at 1s 6d but a section was not satisfied and the struggle continued. In 1932 particularly after the publication of Macmillan's report, opinion was crystallised and they thought that the stabilisation of prices rather than stabilisation of exchange should be the foremost object of the financial policy of the

Government I had been pressing ever since 1932 that the Finance Members were proceeding in the wrong direction. Sir George Schuster concentrated on 1s 6d ratio, and Sir J. Raisman and others thought that the stabilisation of the bank rate of interest is a question of foremost importance for the prosperity of the country and he really sacrificed all the resources of the country in his efforts to stabilise the bank rate of interest. This policy brought on inflation, prices rose very high and brought the country to the position in which it finds itself today. I am glad that the Government of India now think that the stabilisation of prices is an important issue. The prices are three times of what they were before the war and the price index is much higher than in America or the United Kingdom or any other country. Therefore we ought to make every effort to lower the price level. It cannot be done all at once. You must gradually bring it down to 150 and it must eventually be brought to a figure between 125 and 140.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech on the next occasion.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 29th October, 1946.

APPENDIX I

[Vide page 107 ante]

THIRD INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

We were given an account by the Honourable the Finance Member Sri Eric Coates, of the developments which had taken place since we presented our second interim report on the 17th April 1946. In accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 4 of that report, which was adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 18th April 1946, the Government of India, having been informed that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development was likely to start making calls on the share capital towards the end of June, instructed its Executive Director to ask the Bank for the longest possible postponement of the date of payment in order that the final decision to continue membership of the Bank might be taken by the new Government in consultation with the Legislative Assembly. The Executive Director, after informal consultations, reported that no postponement was permissible under the Articles, and that non payment by the due date would inevitably be interpreted by the Bank as a default on the Government of India's obligations. On the 19th June 1946 the Bank informed the Government of India that it would start operation on the 25th June 1946 and asked for the payment of the following sums —

- (i) 2 per cent of the subscription (i.e. 8 million less \$40,000 already paid) in gold or U.S. dollars on or before August 24, 1946
- (ii) 3 per cent of the subscription in rupees on or before November 25, 1946 and
- (iii) a further 5 per cent in rupees on or before November 25, 1946, a formal demand for which would however, follow later

2 We were assured by the Finance Member that the dollars required for the purpose would be made available from the Empire Dollar Pool, the effect of which would be a corresponding reduction in the sterling balances. He also informed us that His Majesty's Government had indicated that they believed that in the interests of a satisfactory and final settlement of the problem the negotiations on the sterling balances should be conducted with as representative an Indian Government as possible and that they would be ready to issue an invitation as soon as a representative Government was formed.

3 The alternatives before this Committee now are either

- (a) to authorise the payment of that portion of the subscription for which demand has been made, or
- (b) to instruct Government to withdraw from the membership of the Bank.
- (c) to continue membership but default in payment, thereby making India liable to suspension under Art. VI, Section 2 of the Articles of Agreement.

In the consideration of these alternatives we have the benefit of the advice of Sri Chittaman Deshmukh, India's Governor of the International Bank. The last named course we unhesitatingly reject for the reason that we are not prepared to recommend any course of action which is not in conformity with the dignity of India and might well affect her credit. As for the second alternative, we are not sure that we would be correctly interpreting the wishes of the Assembly in recommending withdrawal. In any case, we do not think it proper to take so important a decision ourselves.

4 The only decision we can, therefore, possibly take is to recommend to Government to pay that portion of the subscription without the payment of which India would be committing a default, namely the \$7,960,000 which have to be paid on or before August 24, 1946 and thus we accordingly do. We do not wish, however, to take upon ourselves the responsibility of authorising payment of the remaining 8 per cent of the subscription which has to be paid by the 25th of November. We strongly recommend therefore that, irrespective of the political situation at the time a session of the Legislative Assembly should be called on or about the 10th November 1946 at the latest, in order to allow the Assembly to make up its mind finally whether it wishes to continue India's membership of the Bank or whether it wishes India to withdraw from that institution.

5 As the Assembly is not in session and it is necessary for the advice of this Committee to be made available to Government in terms of paragraph 4 of the Second Interim Report as adopted by the Assembly in time enough for them to take action on it before the due date of payment of the subscription, we suggest that a copy of the Report should be sent to Government by the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly even before it is presented to the House.

6 Our colleague, Mr. Manu Subedar, does not agree with us and is submitting a separate Report.

K. C. NEOGY
N. V. GADGIL
ZIA UDDIN AHMAD
M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR

New Delhi,
The 28th July 1946

* A copy of the Third Interim Report together with a copy of the Minority Report attached thereto was accordingly forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Finance Department on the 30th July 1946.

SEPARATE MINORITY REPORT TO THE THIRD INTERIM REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE BRETON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

The question put for the consideration of the Committee was —

- (1) whether India should pay the subscription as demanded, or
- (2) whether India should withdraw from the membership of the Bank

I have no hesitation in saying that India should withdraw from the membership of the Bank at this stage. I support this conclusion on the following grounds —

(1) His Majesty's Government were not willing to negotiate the repayment of sterling balances earlier because they were awaiting the outcome of the Anglo-American loan. In a message three days ago, they have expressed their unwillingness to open negotiations until a representative Government is installed at New Delhi. In the second interim report the whole Committee had agreed that

"If these negotiations are unduly delayed, it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the Agreement to undertake commitments which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits."

I think that the moment has come for India to withdraw because of the delay in these negotiations, as India will be called upon to undertake commitments, which she would be unable to shoulder in the absence of a "satisfactory solution of sterling credits."

(2) The creditor status has been forced on India. In five years Rs. 1,800 crores worth of commodities were taken at controlled prices for Allied purposes without consent. Even after the war Rs. 300 crores have been added to the sterling balances, and even during the current period Government balances are being converted into sterling. With her own needs unsatisfied and with famines and privations and want, India is being invited to join an institution for lending out to various countries by a process in which "special consideration" is to be "given to the needs of countries which have suffered from enemy occupation and hostilities." This international experiment might fail, as other experiments like the League of Nations (to which India contributed heavily) have failed. Having regard to her own needs, India is in no position to assume further creditor obligations towards any part of the world until her position with regard to the repayment of sterling balances has been definitely and finally made clear.

(3) India's own need to borrow dollars for capital equipment from U. S. A. was mentioned more than once as an argument for continued adherence to the Bank at any cost. The normal channels for loans to India are open, but no negotiation on behalf of India has been started. India, not having any foreign debt and having considerable assets in sterling is more eligible for such loans than the countries, who have succeeded in getting money from U. S. A. But it would be very strange to suggest that if India wishes to borrow, she should start with being a lender on a scale, which involves an ultimate liability of Rs. 132 crores. Besides the dollar requirement in so far as it is merely an exchange conversion problem, is only temporary accommodation for which the Fund and not the Bank is the proper channel. It will be noticed from the figures below that full use has not yet been made of dollars which have accrued to India. Further, during recent months India's balance with U. S. A. has been favourable.

The payment of two per cent of 400 million dollars i.e. 8 million dollars (about two and a half crores of rupees) was to be made out of the Dollar Pool. The following particulars were elicited by me with regard to India's position in connection with the Dollar Pool and hard currencies —

(Figures in Rs. crores)

	U S A \$	Canadian \$	Swiss currency	Swedish currency	Portuguese currency	Grand total
Accrued to India	405	40	1½	2	4½	453
Used by India	337	83	13½	2½	2½	339
Balance	+168	-43	-12	-½	+2	+114 ..

The contention that Rs. 57 crores worth of gold at London price that was sold at a profit in India by U. K., should be deducted from the balance of Rs. 114 crores, is untenable, as goods were taken away from India of the full Indian value of this gold.

The following rough particulars were elicited by me with regard to the 20 million dollars per year for capital goods from U S A agreed to be given to India by H M G from the Dollar Pool (*vide* para 35 of the Budget Speech for 1945-46 at page 873 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 28th February 1945)

Accrued to India for calendar years 1944, 1945 and 1946		60 million dollars	
Licenses issued upto May 1946	15 00		"
Further release offered for purchase of ships	6 00	21 00	"
	Balance	39 00	"

The credits used against the licences issued upto April 1946 were only 2.5 million dollars

The advantage of recovering 8 million dollars from the Pool, being two per cent of the subscription of the Bank, is more than outweighed by the ultimate liability, which India incurs, viz. Rs. 132 crores. Eighty per cent of this liability, which will not be collected at present, would be payable in dollars or in gold. About Rs. 100 crores worth of gold for this purpose would be wanted at the world price of between Rs. 42 and 45 per tola. The Reserve Bank's own gold, even if revalued, would not be less than Rs. 90 crores. The balance would have to be acquired from the market at double the value and surrendered at half the value. India would be giving back to the international field gold for which she has paid Rs. 73, 84 and 90 at roughly half the price paid. This is a position, which I cannot contemplate without grave anxiety for the costly membership of an institution which has no direct bearing on India's life, however high and laudable the object may be. The Bank is for giving long period loans, mostly to war-torn countries, including late enemy countries for reconstruction. India is in no position to assume this responsibility. The fact, that the financing of these loans through guarantees or debentures or otherwise will not involve all this liability at once, and that India would be in a position to withdraw if loans are given on a basis, which is regarded as risky, was mentioned in the Committee. It is much better for India not to participate in this institution with any mental reservation. I therefore advocate the withdrawal now on purely financial and economic grounds.

(4) On political grounds, the Interim Government when they are installed, may take a decision to join, making their own terms with the Bank. India's status in the international field will not be enhanced by any action under the Caretaker Government and it is my firm belief that a Committee of the Assembly ought not to take the responsibility for eventual losses of big magnitude beyond India's capacity to bear. Such a decision must be taken by a responsible Government after they make proper enquiry and it should be left for them.

(5) India has been dragged into international organizations and tied up to the chariot wheels of U K. After the position taken up by India's representatives at the Bretton Woods Conference was definitely turned down in July, 1944, it would have been to India's interests to stay away from these institutions until her own affairs at home and with her debtor the United Kingdom were properly settled. In order to gain original membership, Government joined these institutions without the Assembly's consent, and ever since then each successive step has been taken on the plea of urgency with reference to other people and not with reference to India's own convenience or interest. Both the conditions laid down by the Committee itself in their previous reports and accepted by the Assembly have remained until filled viz. that the repayment of sterling balances has not taken place and also that a representative Government has not been installed.

Under these circumstances it is better for India to come out of the Bank now laying no commitments behind and making it possible for the future representative Government to take a decision, which they consider proper.

(6) My colleagues were impressed with American reaction to any action, which India took. It is important to keep good relations with the U S A after India is free to act on her own. In the meanwhile some of us notice, that America drove a particularly hard bargain in the matter of Lend-Lease with India, in comparison with her treatment of other countries, and that, behind India's back, provisions were put in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, viz. clauses 6 and 10, which are definitely prejudicial to the interests of this country. The conditions, under which the proposal for India to withdraw from the International Bank is mooted will not be misunderstood in U S A. The refusal to incur finally obligations of a very large magnitude until her own position is a little more clear, is a straight forward course, dictated by financial considerations, and does not betoken any hostility to U S A. What the U S A ought to resent and what we in India are resenting, is the exercise of import control so as to hold up hundreds of transactions fully negotiated and finalised between American and Indians, for which the import licence (and therefore the dollars) are refused. The canalising of trade between India and the sterling area, to the exclusion of U S A, is something for which U S A public opinion will not hold Indians responsible.

(7) The position of the Fund is different, and some of these considerations do not apply to the Fund. The political breach with England must necessarily involve an independent currency arrangement with U K and the rest of the world. The Fund is, however, not functioning till the first of January, though there are very important steps to be taken in the interval such

as the determination of the gold par of exchange, the suspension of the operations of sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, and a definite provision for the transition period between now and when the Fund operates fully. These are important issues, on which decisions cannot be left to the Caretaker Executive, and it is necessary that either the Interim Government should be installed, or the Legislature should be called to take decisions on these subjects.

I regret that I should be obliged to write a separate report through holding a different opinion from my colleagues on the Committee, but the compelling necessity of the interests of the country has induced me to take this step.

MANU SUBEDAR

NEW DELHI,
The 29th July, 1946

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm

HALF YEAR ENDING

Cases in which the discrimination

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Screws 1/2" x 4"	700	C 2086/1726/31 8 43	The Steel Nut & Joseph Hampton Ltd
Studs 1/4" x 1 7/8"	23500		
Motor Generator Set etc		C 2125/2631/3 9 43	The Electric Construction Co Ltd
Steel Wire Piano for Spinnings, various sizes	5222 lbs	C 2133/1481/4 9 43	Letch & Batchelor Ltd
Electric lamps (various) for Railway signalling purposes	4,580 Nos	C 2134/1787/4 9 43	Metropolitan Vickers Gns Ltd
Steel Spring Ribbon	30 cwts	C 2191/1293/10 9 43	Sanderson Brothers & Newbould Ltd
Cystoscopes	20 Nos	C 2777/2832/29 10 43	The British Cystoscope Co (10 Cystoscopes)
		C 2778/2832/29 10 43	The Genito Urinary Co Ltd. (10 Cystoscopes)
Spanners, Engineers, Double ended etc, various sizes	834 Nos	C 3276/3834/13 12 43	Thomas Smith & Sons of Saltley Ltd
Watt-hour Meter	Nos		
Time Switch	1	C 3453/4534/30 12 43	Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Export Co Ltd
Transformers	1		
	2		

DIX II

(ante)

FOR INDIA

DEPARTMENT

other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc

31ST DECEMBER 1943

is between British firms only

Contract amount	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons of Acceptance
£ s d	£ s d	
69 2 6	64 8 8	The lower tenderer offered to commence delivery in 3 months and to complete in 10-11 months. As the stores were very urgently required the order was placed with the highest tenderer who offered delivery in 3 months.
160 0 0	132 16 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 40 weeks. As the stores were urgently required the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 24 weeks.
703 3 7	551 8 6	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 6-8 months. The indentor required the stores in India by June 1943 or earlier and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 12-16 weeks.
488 12 6	476 8 2	The lowest tenderer offered to deliver part in 4 weeks and the balance in 10-12 months. The indentor required the stores in India by 1-9-43 and the order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered to deliver part in 3 weeks, and the balance in 12 weeks, except one small item which is to follow in 6-9 months.
106 10 0	95 1 8	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 42 weeks. The indentor required the stores in India by 1-10-43 to 31-3-44 and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in the first quarter of 1944.
174 1 7		The lower tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 3 per month commencing December 1943 and completing in July 1944.
184 10 0		The higher tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 10 per month, commencing in January and completing in March 1944. In order to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers so as to complete the supply by April 1944.
358 11 7	348 3 2	
39 18 3	31 0 6	The lowest tenderer was for tools of unsuitable quality. The next lowest tenderer offered delivery in 50 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the highest tenderer who offered delivery in 28 weeks. The tools were required in India between April and September 1944.
36 16 4	30 2 6	The lower tenderer offered delivery in approximately 26 weeks. The stores were required at site by May 1944 or earlier if possible, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 9-11 weeks.

HIGH COMMISSIONER

INDIA STORES

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the

HALF YEAR ENDING

Cases in which the discrimination is between

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Wire, Steel, Piano	660 lbs	C 3619/30604/13-1-44	Bruntons (Musselburgh) Ltd.
Syringes etc		C 4180/5535/24-2-44	General Surgical Co Ltd.
Ergota Praeparata, B P		C 1192/5474/25 1-44	Stafford Allen & Sons Ltd.
		C 4193/5474/25-2-44	William Ransom & Son Ltd
Slip Gauges to Workshop Grade A Accuracy	6 sets	C 4613/6097/20-3-44	Coventry Gauge & Tool Co. Ltd
0.4" Screw Diameter Measuring Machines	2 Nos	D 15/6167/1-4-44	The Precision Tool & Instrument Co Ltd
Wheatstone Bridge Set etc	1 No	D 263/6763/18-4-44	Muirhead & Co Ltd
Knives, guillotine, Paper, Cutting etc	21 Nos	D 302/6165/20 4-44	F Mountford & Sons Ltd.
Knives, Woodworking		D 333/6977/24 4-44	F Mountford & Sons Ltd.
Pump, Centrifugal etc	1 No	D 392/6968/26-4-44	Gwynnes Pumps Ltd
Scales, Dispensing	73 sets	D 493/7197/2-5-44	Mr L. H. M. Stanley
Thermometers, Bath, 10" Brewer Type, etc.	377 Nos	D 535/6431/4-5-44	T.A Reynolds, Son & Wardale Ltd.

FOR INDIA DEPARTMENT

other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods
firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

30TH JUNE 1944

British firm s only

Contract amount	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons of Acceptance
£ s d	£ s d	
44 0 0	28 17 6	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10-12 weeks. The stores were very urgently required in India, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 3-4 weeks.
238 4 5	216 1 3	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 16 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 8 weeks.
98 14 2		The lowest tenderer offered delivery in late March 1944, and the next lowest offered immediate delivery.
638 5 0		The order was divided between the two tenderers in order to secure a portion for immediate shipment, as required.
736 19 2	690 19 2	
293 6 0	291 0 0	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 5-6 weeks. As the stores were required immediately in replacement of loss at sea by enemy action, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.
124 0 0	114 0 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-16 weeks. As the indentor required the machines in India by January 1944, the order was placed at the higher price for delivery in 8 weeks.
34 19 8	26 9 8	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 9-11 months. As the stores were required in India at site by July 1944, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 26 weeks.
57 15 0	56 2 6	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-15 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 8 weeks.
422 8 0	419 2 8	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-14 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery of part in 6-8 weeks and to complete in 12-14 weeks.
363 12 6	306 10 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 24-36 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 16 weeks.
58 14 5	53 16 9	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 26 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8-12 weeks.
56 11 0	50 5 4	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 15-16 weeks. As the stores were required immediately in replacement of loss at sea, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8 weeks.

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Needles, blood trans fusion, etc	17 160 Nos	D 704/7102/16 5 44	General Surgical Co Ltd
Parchment, Animal 30" x 24"	1,000 pieces	D 997/108/5 6 44	H Band & Co
Axles, Driving	3 Nos	D 1146/7461/14 6 44	The Vulcan Foundry Ltd
Slip Gauges	1 Set	D 1174/317/15 6 44	Coventry Gauge & Tool Co Ltd
Slip Gauge Accessories	1 set		
Saws, Band for Hard Wood, etc		D 1244/7904/19 6 44	Sanderson Brothers & Newbould Ltd

Contract amount	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons of Acceptance
£ s d	£ s d	
513 5 5	426 0 5	The lower tenderer offered to commence delivery in 10-12 months. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 21 weeks.
525 0 0	481 5 0	The lower tenderer required 20 months for delivery. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in July and completion in December 1944.
330 0 0	280 10 0	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 56 weeks. As this was much too long, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 28 weeks.
88 7 0	86 6 0	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 6/8 weeks and completion in 12/14 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6 weeks.
42 1 6	38 8 2	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10/12 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4/5 weeks.

INDIA STORE

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness o

HALF YEAR ENDING

Cases in which the discrimination is

Stores Ordered†	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Photostat paper, etc		D 1478/HN130/3-7 44	Photostat Ltd
Gum metal water gauges	10 Nos	D 2228/185 16-8 44	Dewrance & Co Ltd
Brushes, Foundry, steel wire - -	Nos	D 2222/2211/16 8 44	W Canning & Co Ltd.
Flat 7-1/2" x 2 3/4"	192		
Round 11 3/4"	12		
Spinal local anaesthetic outfit, complete	513 Nos	D 2210 1286 16 8 44	General Surgical Co Ltd
Cham slings, 10' 0" long	30 Nos	D 2439/2227 28-8-44	Mr Thomas Perrins
Splint, knee (Thomas') flexion piece (Pearson's) for	174 Nos	D 2285/1864/19 8 44	The Scholl Mfg Co Ltd.
Hacksaw blades		D 2842/2281/21 9 44	Arthur Balfour & Co Ltd.
Cylinders, measuring 500 ml	2,860 Nos	D 3196/2733/9-10 44	Eureka Scientific Co Ltd.
Bench centres 30" long and 4" centres	2 Nos	D 3232/2417/11-10-44	Buck & Hickman Ltd

FOR INDIA

DEPARTMENT

other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

31st DECEMBER 1944

between British firms only

Contract amount	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for Acceptance
£ s d	£ s d	
122 14 3	115 13 11	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 8 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered a better quality paper with delivery in 3/4 weeks.
56 0 4	45 0 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 20/26 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the highest tenderer, who offered part from stock and complete delivery in 6 weeks.
22 14 0	20 10 6	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in approx 12/16 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in about 6 weeks.
2,117 0 2	1,938 1 7	The lowest tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 50 per month beginning in 1 month, but the firm are not reliable in their delivery promises and were far behind in their deliveries under earlier contracts. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery to commence in four months at the rate of 50 per week.
341 5 0	292 0 0	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 52 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery by the end of December 1944.
47 17 0	45 13 6	The lowest tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 50 per month after 10 weeks. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery at the rate of 50 per week commencing in 4/6 weeks.
268 7 0	244 11 1	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18/24 weeks. As the stores were required in India by October 1944 the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery ex-stock.
522 16 11	487 19 9	The lowest tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 250 per month beginning from March 1945. As the stores were urgently required in India, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery of the whole quantity in 16 weeks.
101 0 0	57 14 0	This item was part of a very urgent indent which requested despatch by air where practicable. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8 weeks. In view of the great urgency the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery from stock.

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor
Sleeves, drill		D 3402/2638/20-10 44	Frank Guyloo & Sons Ltd.
Spanners, double ended (various sizes)		D 3447/3617/23 10-44	Thomas Smith & Sons of Salford Ltd
Stamps, steel marking	Sets 195	D 3609/3775/1 11 44	John Meerloo & Sons
Floating carriage diameter measuring machine	1	D 3661/3522/6 11 44	Coventry Gauge & Tool Co. Ltd
Braces, ratchet	100	D 3916/3688/22 11 44	Easterbrook Alford & Co Ltd
Saws, circular, etc		D 4460/3692/19 12 44	John Elsworth & Sons Ltd

NOTE —In the present conditions

Contract amount	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for Acceptance
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
38 6 2	31 14 3	The stores were urgently required for an Ordnance Factory in India. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12 weeks. In view of the urgency of the demand the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered to deliver part from stock and to complete delivery in 6/8 weeks.
261 14 9	224 12 2	The spanners were required by Ordnance Factories in India during the first quarter of 1945. The lowest tenderer required 40 weeks for delivery. As this could not meet the delivery requirements the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 12 weeks.
126 19 7	124 10 10	The stores were required during Jan/March by an Ordnance Factory in India. The accepted tenderer offered delivery in six weeks against the delivery of four to five months offered by the lowest tenderer.
36 12 6	57 0 0	The stores were required in India in January 1945. The accepted tenderer offered delivery in 8/10 weeks against the 20 weeks of the lowest tenderer.
81 13 4	78 15 0	The stores were required during 1944 to 1945 for an Ordnance Factory in India. The lower tenderer offered delivery in nine months against the delivery of 6 months of the accepted tenderer.
53 2 9 (including cost of packing)	48 16 0 (excluding cost of packing)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 26-30 weeks. The stores were required in India during Jan/March 1945, and the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4-12 weeks.

there are no foreign tenders

**Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State
are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

TUESDAY, 29th OCTOBER, 1946.

Vol. VII—No. 2

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 29th October 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

POLICY *RE* TEMPORARY BRICK STRUCTURES ERECTED FOR WAR PURPOSES IN DELHI AND ELSEWHERE

47. *Mr. C. P. Lawson: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to indicate the policy of Government in respect of temporary brick structures erected for war purposes, particularly in Delhi?

(b) Is it intended to remove such structures where they offend against the general planning of the city or where the cost of upkeep is likely to be uneconomical?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) In the case of temporary structures put up at Delhi, Government decided—

(1) that all structures constructed to temporary specifications during the war should be demolished as early as possible,

(2) that while keeping the above aim in view, demolition should be so ordered that no building is demolished so long as it can be used for a purpose for which it is more suited than other buildings that would otherwise have to be used or in the case of residential buildings to provide a standard of living higher than would otherwise be available at a reasonable price

Provided that the retention of a temporary building does not interfere with the immediate construction of a building required for a permanent purpose

They also set up a small Committee under the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, which has adopted two main principles—

(1) that temporary buildings which are still in good usable condition should not be demolished until all requisitioned buildings have been released except where the demolition of temporary buildings is necessary on a plot required for the construction of permanent buildings either for residential or other purposes, and

(2) that steps should be taken to build permanent residential and office buildings as quickly as possible to meet the permanent increased demand for the same, and in this way facilitate the replacement of temporary accommodation by permanent accommodation

The whole question is however again being reviewed in the light of the present constitutional situation

As regards temporary brick structures erected for war purposes outside Delhi, no general policy has been laid down but each case is separately considered on merits

(b) Both these points are kept in view while implementing the policy as stated above

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: With reference to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member please tell us what is the principle with regard to the temporary brick structures which were handed over to the Americans for military purposes and when are they going to be asked to vacate them?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I must ask for notice of that question

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether in view of the difficulty of bringing into existence new permanent structures Government will consider the desirability of maintaining the old temporary structures even if they are of temporary specifications and giving them for use of the population which is short of housing and other accommodation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The policy which I have just read out does contemplate the retention of temporary structures under certain conditions, for instance, as long as these structures are necessary. Then, there is the question of the cost of their maintenance and the possibility of alternative accommodation. There are so many factors involved.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I make the point clear? Government does contemplate retention, but Government also contemplates, according to the policy stated by my Honourable friend, the abolition. My suggestion is Will Government consider the postponement of all demolition for some time until they see new structures coming into existence?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Before we can construct new structures, we have to have some demolition to make room for the new structures. Then, there are grass plots in Delhi for instance, about which Government have given an assurance in the past that the temporary structures will be pulled down as soon as possible and the grass plots will be restored to Delhi. The point raised by the Honourable Member will, however, be considered and I am prepared to put it up to Government again to see what can be done.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government proposes to consult the Standing Committee attached to the Department before any temporary buildings are demolished?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: There is no such proposal at present.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government will consider the proposal?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That will be considered.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is it not a fact that assurances were given to the New Delhi Municipality when they presented addresses to Lord Linlithgow and Lord Willingdon that as these temporary structures disfigure the outlook of New Delhi they will be demolished as soon as possible after the war?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I believe some such assurance has been given and I think that is the policy of Government. But, as I have just stated in answer to the previous question, the whole policy is still again under consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government consider 'use' before 'art' and will Government maintain every temporary structure which is here notwithstanding such assurances, at all events, for the next few months until new structures come into existence?

(No reply was given)

Srijiit Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: The accommodation in Delhi is very limited and so by maintaining the present temporary structures

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is arguing.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I suggest a slight modification in the conditions already cited by the Honourable Secretary? It is this. The temporary structures may be demolished to give place to permanent structures provided it is definitely known that no other place is available for that permanent structure?

Mr. President: I am afraid that is a suggestion for action and not a question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member has just said that no policy has been evolved for buildings outside Delhi. Does he mean outside the Delhi province? If so, why no policy has been evolved at all?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I said that with regard to the question of the demolition of existing temporary structures outside Delhi no policy has been evolved.

The reason is that there are very few such temporary structures. They are all situated at different places and each case has to be considered on its merits. It is difficult to establish a policy for outside Delhi, but in Delhi there are so many temporary structures that Government thought it was better to have a definite policy about them.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member said that a Committee has been appointed. A similar Committee ought to have been appointed with regard to other places. If no such Committee has been appointed, what agency is there to decide whether the temporary buildings will be continued or demolished on behalf of the Government?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Each case is considered by the Department itself. The Committee only concerns itself with Delhi.

GOVERNMENT PLANS *RE* MEETING SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATION AND CONTROL OF RENTS

48. *Mr. C. P. Lawson: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether he is aware that in spite of the fact of the termination of hostilities, the accommodation position in Delhi for all classes is showing no improvement?

(b) Has Government any specific plans for meeting this shortage of accommodation of all kinds?

(c) Is it intended to subsidise the building of new accommodation and will building materials be made available to those who are prepared to undertake the work?

(d) Do Government propose to control rents charged after the 30th September 1946 and attempt to make such control effective?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes

(b) Yes

Government are constructing 30 semi-detached bungalows in New Delhi. In addition they have got the following new proposals for construction under their consideration:

- (i) 200 officers' flats in New Delhi,
- (ii) 2,000 clerks' quarters in New Delhi,
- (iii) 1,000 clerks' and 250 peons' and duffry quarters in Old Delhi, and
- (iv) 1,000 peons' quarters in New Delhi.

Steps are also being taken by the Delhi Improvement Trust to expedite the construction of new houses. In the first instance the lessees of plots in Daryaganj South, Mondhewalan Road, Original Road and Gaurin Bastion Road are being asked to complete construction of new buildings within one year from the date of the notice. Similar action will be taken in respect of plots sold in other Trust areas. The Trust also propose to construct poor class quarters under the State-aided re-housing scheme. These quarters are intended primarily for those who may have to vacate their present accommodation on account of slum clearance schemes sponsored by the Trust.

(c) In order to accelerate the building of new accommodation the Government of India have asked all Provincial Governments to set up Building Material Panels to co-ordinate the requirements of building materials and efforts will be made to meet those requirements as far as possible.

The Government of India do not propose to subsidise new building.

(d) Yes

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that numerous blocks of buildings in Canning Road are lying vacant fully furnished and a lot of furniture is even lying outside exposed to sun, wind and rain? Why not make these buildings available to the public?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I want notice. Where are they?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Behind the Travancore House on the Canning Road

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are the Government of India aware of the squatting incident that took place in London on account of the fact that Government allowed their own buildings to remain vacant?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I believe Government have seen this

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it a fact that the House Committee of the Legislative Assembly asked for certain more accommodation to be made available to Members of the Legislature and that the Department have not so far been able to do so?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I am not aware of the position. As for new buildings, no new buildings have been put up

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The House Committee made a requisition on the Department that they should construct or at least offer to the Legislative Assembly Members ten more buildings, but the Department has not done anything so far. I want to know what the Government is doing in the matter?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I am not aware of the position

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Does the Honourable Member's Department exercise any right of disposal over those buildings that had been allotted to the American Government for housing the American fighting forces and other American personnel and which are, I understand, lying vacant fully furnished?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Certain buildings have been placed at the disposal of the American Mission and other officers from time to time. We have been making efforts to take back as many buildings as possible, but it is a matter of negotiation with the American Government

Mr. C. P. Lawson: I think the House would be entitled to know something more definite on the question of progress of construction of quarters. Will the Honourable Member give the House any indication of the period required to accommodate a certain number of persons, for instance, of this House who cannot literally find accommodation anywhere and can the Honourable Member give any indication of the speed with which he expects to make progress either now or in the future?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Government are constructing some 30 semi-detached bungalows and they expect to complete the same within the next three months. So far as quarters for clerks and peons are concerned, the plans and estimates are under preparation and Government have generally approved the same. I cannot say how long it will take to complete them. I expect it will take about a year before these buildings are ready

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that as far as Members of this House are concerned, they are allotted houses by ballot and some Members do not get houses at all? Surely Government cannot expect the Members of this House to live and work here under a tree. Will the Government do something so that this ballot system may stop and sufficient number of houses are available for Members of both Houses of Legislature and for Members of the Constituent Assembly also?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: So far as the ballot system is concerned, I believe it is a matter for the Legislative Assembly. About the general housing condition, I have said it is very tight and Government are making efforts to construct new buildings to relieve the situation

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I submit, Sir, that when an Honourable Member of this House drew attention to the fact that certain buildings were lying vacant,—this question relates to scarcity of accommodation in New Delhi—the Honourable Member should have been in possession of all the facts before giving a reply to the House. How does he say that he is not aware of the fact? He should have enquired into it before giving his reply to the question.

Mr. President: Next question.

FRESH REQUISITIONING OF ACCOMMODATION BY CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI

49. *Mr. C. P. Lawson Will the Honourable Member for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state

(a) what fresh requisitioning has taken place in Delhi in 1946 under the orders of the Chief Commissioner,

(b) whether the Chief Commissioner satisfied himself before making use of war emergency legislation for this purpose, that there was no vacant accommodation in Cantonments or elsewhere which might be used for the purposes required, and

(c) how much of the property so requisitioned has now been returned to its owners and how long will it be before the rest is returned?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) A list showing the fresh requisitioning of property in Delhi in 1946 under the order of the Chief Commissioner is placed on the table

(b) Yes. The Chief Commissioner obtained all the vacant accommodation he could get from the military authorities and from the Estate Officer but nevertheless had to requisition private property owing to large quantities of food-grains allotted to Delhi and which had to be properly protected, particularly during the monsoon. Storing foodgrains in Cantonments was not feasible because to transport stocks to Cantonments and back again would have added materially to the cost which would have had to be borne by the consumer.

(c) So far none of the property requisitioned has been returned to its owners but this will be done as soon as it becomes practicable to do so.

Statement

(1) House No 9697 9689 Shamshad Manzil Subzimaundi, (2) House at Khajuri Road Karol Bagh, (3) Godown at Basti Hirpud Singh, (4) Godown at Roshanara Road, (5) Godown at Naya Bazar Delhi, (6) Godown at Naya Bazar Delhi, (7) Bungalow at Roshanara Road, (8) Godown at Maidganj Delhi, (9) Two godowns at Basti Hirpud Singh, (10) Compound in Gandhi Nagar, (11) Bungalow No 3, Ataur Rahman Lane, and (12) Godowns behind Cloth Market.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: May I point out that the Honourable Member has not replied to my question. My question was

"whether the Chief Commissioner satisfied himself before making use of war emergency legislation for this purpose, that there was no vacant accommodation."

The Honourable Member simply said that the Chief Commissioner obtained all the vacant accommodation that was given to him. This is a very different thing. I should like the Honourable Member to give a specific answer to my question.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: So what the Chief Commissioner could do was to get as much accommodation as he could whether from the Estate Officer or from the War Department. He tried his best to get whatever accommodation he could and then when he found that that was inadequate, he had to requisition these buildings. The Chief Commissioner is not in a position really to do anything more.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: I should like to ask the Honourable Member whether this is the policy of Government, while admitting the fact that alternative accommodation is not available, to requisition these buildings. I understand that these godowns which have been requisitioned cannot be replaced. If it is the policy of the Government to do that, would it not be better for them to face the necessary expenses for transporting Government materials for slightly longer distance?

Mr. President: He is advancing an argument. What is the Honourable Member's question?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: The Honourable Member said that certain accommodation would not be used because of transport difficulties. I am asking whether it is the policy of the Government because of that extra cost to turn out people who can find no other accommodation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I have stated what was actually done. The point raised will be considered. As I have already said, the Government are again examining *de novo* the question of policy in this respect.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE RETURN OF SARDAR AJIT SINGH FROM GERMANY

50. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state

(a) whether there are any restrictions on the return of Sardar Ajit Singh who had left this country in 1913 and whether any prosecutions are still pending against him, if so, what the particulars are,

(b) whether Government have considered this question, if so why no announcement has been made that there are no restrictions on his entry into India and that he is free to return to this country whenever he likes,

(c) whether it is a fact that he is lying ill somewhere in Germany and whether Government propose to find out the condition of his health, and

(d) whether his relatives have approached the Government of India with the request that facilities may be afforded to them to proceed there for the purpose of nursing him?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) There is no restriction on the return to India of Sardar Ajit Singh and no prosecution is pending against him.

British Passport Control authorities abroad and the Indian Military Mission in Berlin have been informed accordingly.

(c) He is reported to be in a sanatorium at Bielefeld in Germany and to desire repatriation to India by sea which is being arranged.

(d) The Government of India have received no application from his relatives for facilities to proceed to Germany, one relative did, however, request that arrangements be made for Sardar Ajit Singh's early repatriation and has been informed that this is being done.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is the Honourable Member satisfied that this decision of the Government of India has actually reached Sardar Ajit Singh?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say absolutely definitely but I believe it has. I may add that the difficulty about his return is due to securing passages and a certain difficulty that they have to go to England first and from England get a passage for India, and in England these people are not allowed to remain for more than about three days. Until assured by the British authorities that they have got a passage within that time they are not allowed to leave Germany. We hope to approach the British authorities to relax these rules and to facilitate their return.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE ENTRY OF INDIANS INTO BURMA

51. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) the restrictions on the entry of the Indians into Burma apart from ordinary passport requirements,

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indians are not allowed to enter Burma although many of them possess a large amount of immovable and movable property in Burma, and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to help Indians to go back and claim their properties and restart their business which has been ruined by the war?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Entry of Indians into Burma is not subject to any restrictions. Even passports are not required for this.

purpose. Owing, however, to the limited shipping space available and the unsatisfactory economic conditions obtaining in Burma only evacuees, and non-evacuees in special circumstances, are being given passage facilities to go to Burma at present.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Passages of persons having immovable and movable properties in Burma are on application sponsored by the Government of India. Persons who had business in Burma before the war and desire to restart such business are also being given passage facilities.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know who controls the passage to Burma? Is it the Defence Department or is it some other Department?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I do not know, I will have to inquire and find out.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Have Government received any complaints that Indian businessmen are not allowed passages to Burma but British commercial people are allowed to go there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer for all the complaints that are received in the Government of India straight off. I am personally not aware of any such complaint but if the Honourable Member will draw our attention to any such complaint we shall certainly look into it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that a very large number of Indians who had gone to Burma in recent months have returned to India in large numbers because of difficult conditions of living in Burma?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Indeed one of our big headaches has been to get back Indians to India from Burma, Malaya, Sumatra and Java. We have tried to get ships and charter them all over the world because there is such a tremendous demand from Indians to come to India from these various places.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the Government of India doing in order to make our people—former refugees—aware of the difficult conditions prevailing in Burma and advise them not to go to Burma in the present circumstances?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I imagine that those conditions are fairly well known. We have not encouraged people to go back, we have told them that conditions are now different but we have not carried on a propaganda campaign of this kind.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: With reference to part (a) of the question is it a fact that Indians have to submit applications to the External Affairs Department to re-enter into Burma?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite sure, I will inquire and find out.

TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND BURMA

52. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Commerce Department please state

(a) the arrangements at present which govern the trade relations between India and Burma, and

(b) whether the Government of India contemplate to negotiate a commercial treaty with the Burma Government?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Trade between the two countries is now conducted through commercial channels subject to such import and export regulations as each Government has found it necessary to impose in its own interests.

Exports to Burma are allowed through trade channels in the same manner as to any other destination with which private trade is permissible. In addition, the Government of India have agreed to supply, through Government channels,

the goods required by the Government of Burma, up to the 31st March 1947, for implementing their programme of rehabilitation, subject, of course, to the required goods being available for export

Imports from Burma are allowed on the same basis as from any other country of the British Empire included in the sterling area. Imports by land are governed by the provisions of Open General Licence No. 111.

Tariff duties are levied in accordance with the Heads of Agreement concluded between the delegations of the Governments of India and Burma on 3rd April 1941.

(h) No, Sir, not for the present.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House—not now perhaps but later in the session—whether it is true that the Burma Government have overcharged this country for the rice supplied to us, whereas cloth and other goods which were supplied from India have gone out at controlled rates?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I shall require notice of that question.

ANNUAL QUOTA FOR THE ENTRY OF INDIANS INTO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

53. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state

(a) the latest position regarding the entry of Indians into the United States of America and whether any annual quota has been fixed, if so, what it is, and

(b) whether the Government of India will press the United States of America to increase this quota?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) By a measure which has recently been passed into law Indians are now eligible for immigration into, and naturalisation in, the United States of America. Under the United States Immigration Act of 1924 the immigration into the United States of all foreigners is regulated by quota, the quota for each country being calculated according to the ratio that the number of inhabitants of the United States originating in that country bore to the total population of the United States in 1920, the minimum quota for any country being one hundred. Since the number of Indians residing in the United States of America in 1920 was negligible, the quota for Indian immigrants will be one hundred.

(b) The provisions regulating these quotas apply equally to immigrants of all nationalities and it would not therefore be feasible to press for a relaxation in favour of Indians.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE PERSONNEL OF DELEGATIONS APPOINTED BY THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

54. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Member for External Affairs please state

(a) the number of delegations appointed by the Interim Government to participate in the International Organisations of their personnel, and

(b) whether any section of the public has made complaints to the Government of India against their personnel?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(b) A complaint was made by the Indian Federation of Labour in regard to the composition of the delegation to the 29th Session of the International Labour Conference at Montreal. No other formal complaint has been made, so far as Government are aware.

Delegations appointed by the Interim Government to participate in Internal Organisations and their Personnel

Serial No	Name of Conference or Meeting	Venu	Date of meeting	Personnel of India's Delegation	Remarks
1	29th Session of the International Labour Conference	Montreal	19th Sept. 1946	<p><i>Government Delegates</i></p> <p>The Hon'ble Mr. S. Lall, C I E, Secretary, Labour Department Dewan Chaman Lal, M L A (Central).</p> <p><i>Advisers</i></p> <p>Nawab M A Gurmans, Director General, Re-settlement and Employment K B Mohd Aslam, O S D, Labour Department</p> <p>Mr M A Mirza, Commissioner of Labour, Hyderabad</p> <p>Mr W B England, High Commissioner's Office, London</p> <p><i>Employers' Delegate</i></p> <p>Mr David S Erulkar, (Sondia Steamship Co, London)</p> <p><i>Advisers</i></p> <p>Mr Y S Pundit (Tata Sons, Ltd, Bombay)</p> <p>Mr N W Gujar (Kurlskar Bros. Ltd)</p> <p>Mr H K Srivastava (M/S J P Srivastava & Sons, (awnpore)</p> <p>Mr Vdya Bhushan Shukla (Bihar Industries Asscn, Patna)</p> <p><i>Workers' Delegate</i></p> <p>Mr S S Murjkar (All India Trade Union Congress, Bombay)</p> <p><i>Advisers</i></p> <p>Mr Sibnath Banerjee, M L A (Bengal), Member, Council of All India Trade Union Congress, Howrah</p> <p>Mr Abid Ali Jafferbhay, All India Trade Union Congress, Bombay.</p>	

Serial No.	Name of Conference or Meeting	Venue	Date of meeting	Personnel of India's Delegation	Remarks
2	Provisional International Civil Aviation Organisation's Middle East Regional Air Navigation Meeting	Cairo	Oct 1946	<p>Mr Tukaram Andoo Gaikwad, Secretary, Dhond Branch, GIP Union, Dhond.</p> <p>Mr N V Phadke, Bombay</p> <p>Mr D Chakravarti, Dy Dir of Air Routes and Aerodromes, Directorate General, Civil Aviation in India (Leader)</p> <p>Flt Lt S G Deshpande, Aerodrome Officer, Directorate General of Civil Aviation in India</p> <p>Mr Mohammad Aslam, Meteorologist, India Meteorological Department</p> <p>Mr J P Jaffcock, Director of Communications, Directorate General of Civil Aviation in India</p> <p>Sqn Leader G Howard, Dy Group Signals Officer, No 229, Group, War Department.</p> <p>Mr. P H E. Hope-Ross, Controller of Communications, Directorate General of Civil Aviation in India.</p>	
3	Preparatory Committee on International Trade and Employment held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council	London	15th Oct. 1946	<p>Mr. R K Nehru, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department (Leader)</p> <p><i>Members</i></p> <p>Mr. B N Adarkar, MBE, Dy. Economic Adviser to the Government of India.</p> <p>Dr B N Ganguly, Professor of Economics, Hindu College, Delhi</p> <p>Dr A I. Qureshi, Economic Adviser to the Government of H E the Nizam of Hyderabad.</p> <p>Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, Editor, Indian Economist.</p>	

Serial No	Name of Conference or Meeting	Venue	Date of meeting	Personnel of India's Delegation	Remarks
4	2nd Part of the First Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations	New York	23rd Oct. 1946	<p>Dr D G Mulherkar, Secretary, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>Mr H S Malik, C I E., O B E., Prime Minister, Patiala State</p> <p><i>Secretary</i></p> <p>Mr M A Mulky, Under Secretary, Commerce Department.</p> <p><i>Representatives</i></p> <p>The Hon'ble Mrs Vijaya Laxshmi Pandit, Minister of Health, U P, (Leader)</p> <p>Raja Sir Mahara; Singh, C I E</p> <p>The Hon'ble Mr Justice M C. Chagla, Judge of the Bombay High Court</p> <p>Mr. Frank Anthony, M L A. (Central)</p> <p>Nawab Ali Yawar Jung, Member, Executive Council, Hyderabad State (States nominee).</p> <p><i>Alternate Representatives.</i></p> <p>The Hon'ble Mr K P. S Menon, C I E., Agent General for India in China.</p> <p>The Hon'ble Mr P N. Saprú, Member, Council of State</p> <p>Mr V K Krishna Menon, India League, London</p> <p>Mr. R M Deshmukh, lately High Commissioner for India in South Africa.</p> <p><i>Advisers</i></p> <p>Mr R. N Banerjee, CSI, C I E, Secretary, C R Department.</p>	

Serial No	Name of Conference or Meeting	Venue	Date of meeting	Personnel of India's Delegation	Remarks
5	Second Session of the United Maritime Consultative Council	Washington	24th Oct 1946	<p>Mr Bhavan A Lal, C I E, Jr Secretary, Legation Department</p> <p>Mr C S Jha O B E, Dy Secretary, C R Department</p> <p>Mr R L Gupta, O B E, Adviser to A G for India in the U S A</p> <p>Mr Gopal Swarup Pathak, Advocate and Retired Judge of the High Court, Allahabad</p> <p>Dr Lanka Sundaram, Editor, Commerce and Industry, New Delhi</p> <p><i>Public Relations Officer</i></p> <p>Mr I Natarajan</p> <p><i>Secretaries</i></p> <p>Capt B K Kapur, M B E, Dy Secretary, E A Department</p> <p>Mr M A Husain, Dy Secretary, I & B Department</p> <p><i>Assistant Secretary</i></p> <p>K S A A Shah, Assistant Secretary, E A Department</p> <p><i>Office Superintendent</i></p> <p>Mr Bal Kishan, Superintendent, E A Department</p> <p><i>Members</i></p> <p>Mr M K Vellodi, C I E, Deputy High Commissioner for India, London</p> <p>Mr S K Kirpalani, C I E, Indian Government Trade Commissioner, New York</p> <p>Mr M A Master, Seindia Steam Navigation Co Ltd</p> <p>Mr Parmeshwaram Pillai (Indian States nominee)</p>	

Serial No	Name of Conference or Meeting	Venu	Date of meeting	Personnel of India's Delegation	Remarks
				<i>Secretary</i> Mr P R Subramanian, Assistant Secretary, Commerce Department	
6	Permanent Committee of the Office International d'Hygiene Publique	Paris	23rd Oct 1946	Major C Mani, I.M.S., Additional Deputy Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India	
7	Preparatory Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations Meeting for setting up a World Food Board	Washington	28th Oct 1946	<i>Leader</i> The Hon'ble Dr K N Katju, Minister for Justice and Development, U P <i>Alternate Leader</i> Sir S V Ramamurthy, C I E, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras <i>Advisers</i> Chaudhuri Mukhtar Singh Dr Radhakurand Mookerji Professor C N Vakil, University of Bombay Mr A D Gorwala, C I E, Commissioner of Supply, Bombay Dr V K R V Rao, Planning Adviser, Food Department Dr Radhakamal Mukerjee, Economic Adviser, (Uttar Pradesh State) Mr G Parameswaram Pillai, Reconstruction Officer, Travancore State <i>Secretary</i> Mr Aziz Ahmed, O B E., Dy Secretary, Agriculture Department	
(The personnel of the delegation is not yet complete as one Alternate Leader and one Adviser have yet to be selected)					
8	Interim Commission of World Health Organization	Geneva	4th Nov 1946	Major C Mani, I.M.S., Additional Deputy Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India	

Serial No.	Name of Conference or Meeting	Venu	Date of meeting	Personnel of India's Delegation	Remarks
9	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-General Conference	Paris	19th Nov 1946	<p><i>Leader</i></p> <p>Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, M.A., D. Litt LL.D., F.B.A., Vice Chancellor, Benares Hindu University</p> <p><i>Members</i></p> <p>Sir John Sargent, C.I.E., M.A., D. Litt., Secretary, Education Department</p> <p>Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Member, Central Advisory Board of Education</p> <p>Mr K. G. Sanyal, M.Ed (Leeds), Educational Adviser, Rampur State (States nominee)</p> <p>Professor H. J. Bhabha, B.A. (Cantab), Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. Director and Professor of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay</p>	
10	Commission on Narcotic Drugs set up by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations	New York	28th Nov 1946	<p><i>Representative</i></p> <p>Mr H. Greenfield, C.I.C.B., Member, Central Board of Revenue</p> <p><i>Alternate Representative cum Adviser</i></p> <p>Mr N. Sunderesan, Financial Adviser to the Agent for India, in the U.S.A.</p>	
11	International Commission on High Dams.	Paris	..	Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, I.S.E., Chairman, C.W.I.N.U.	
12	International Technical Congress	Paris	.	<p>Mr Mohan Ali, Member, C.W.I.N.U. (Leader)</p> <p>R. B. M. S. Mathur, I.S.E., A.C.E., C.P.W.D.</p> <p>R. B. N. K. Mitra, Retired Officer, E.I.R., and a nominee of the Indian Institute of Engineers.</p>	

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Serial No.	Name of Conference or Meeting	Venu	Date of meeting	Personnel of India's Delegation	Remarks
13	International Congress for Housing and Town Planning	Hastings		R B M S Mathur, I S E, A C E, C P W D	
14	Committee on Epidemiological Intelligence and Quarantine set up by the Interim Commission of the World Health Organisation			Major C Mani, I M S, Additional Deputy Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India	

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer. Will the Honourable Member give an assurance to this House that in future while sending such delegations overseas proper care will be taken to select representatives from all parties in the House so far as non-officials are concerned?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not need to give any such assurance because that has been the practice, and that certainly is the way in which Government will arrange these delegations.

INVESTIGATION INTO INDUSTRIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE TARIFF BOARD

†55 ***Sardar Mangal Singh.** (a) Will the Secretary of the Commercial Department please state how many industries have so far been investigated into by the Tariff Board?

(b) What action the Government of India have taken on their recommendations?

The Honourable Mr I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Government have so far received reports on 15 industries from the Tariff Board.

(b) Departmental examination of 12 reports has been completed and Cabinet's orders on about six reports will be issued shortly. Steps are being taken to expedite issue of orders on the remaining reports.

APPOINTMENT OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS

56 ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer :** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state whether the Government of India have any hand in filling up officiating appointments of Provincial Governors?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Governors are appointed by His Majesty under section 18(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935, but it is obviously desirable that the Government of India should be consulted in the matter and that their views should carry weight.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member communicate to His Majesty's Government that there is great dissatisfaction in this country for appointing a particular individual to all the officiating appointments as Provincial Governor, and will he also communicate to His Majesty's Government that this practice should cease forthwith and that no particular person should have a monopoly of such officiating appointments?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite understand what particular person is referred to. I know that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction about various Governors in the country—quite a number of them—but what particular person is referred to I do not know.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Sir Henry Knight.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the Government of India have also powers in the matter of removal of Governors?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Obviously not legally.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the Government of India is seeking to get such powers?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India's main purpose in existence is to gain complete independence in this country.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that there is great dissatisfaction at the very existence of Governors?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Naturally with the coming of independence there ceases to be any necessity for Governors.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member communicate to His Majesty's Government that there is a general feeling in this country that in future so long as these appointments of Governors are continued to be made Indians should be appointed and they should be given the first preference instead of imposing foreigners on this country?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not sure that the Government is pleased with the views put forward by the Honourable Member. We want to do away with the Governors and not to replace them with others of that type though of a different complexion.

MONEY AND OFFICERS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL AREAS IN ASSAM

57 *Sreejit Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the amount of money given for the administration of the tribal areas in Assam from the Central Government and also from the Provincial Government,

(b) the number and names of officers employed in the Tribal areas in Assam whose pay is above Rs 500 with the present pay of each officer,

(c) the name of the Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Assam for tribal areas and the amount of his pay,

(d) whether he is paid from the Central or Provincial revenue,

(e) the number of years he has been in Government service,

(f) the terms of his employment as Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Assam for tribal areas,

(g) the date on which he is due to retire,

(h) the special qualifications for this employment given to him,

(i) whether any better officer or an Indian officer is not available for this post,

(j) the number of districts in Assam in which he has served with dates,

(k) whether he is also the Adviser to His Excellency the Agent to the Crown Representative in relation to the Khasi States and Manipur State,

(l) the proportion of his pay from the fund of the tribal areas and from the Khasi States fund and also from the Manipur State, if any,

(m) the number of improvements he has introduced since his appointment as Adviser in the sphere of education, communication, industry, agriculture and sanitation, and

(n) the amount of money spent on such improvements and the amount spent on salaries of officers whose pay is above Rs 500?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Central Government's budget estimates for 1946-47 provide Rs 49,17,000 for the administration of

tribal areas in Assam. At present the Provincial Government make no contribution.

(b) The information is given in the statement marked A which I lay on the table.

(c) The Adviser's name is Mr. J. P. Mills. His salary is Rs. 3,000 plus £13 6sh. and 8d. overseas pay p.m.

(d) He is paid from the Central Revenues.

(e) He has been in service for roughly 33 years.

(f) On the normal service terms of an officer of the Indian Civil Service.

(g) He is due to retire on the 10th December 1948.

(h) Mr. Mills was formerly Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam and in that capacity had a good deal to do with the tribal tribes amongst whom especially the Nagas he had spent a great deal of his time.

(i) It is difficult to make comparisons where many factors come into play, but among the officers in the service Mr. Mills has the greatest experience for this kind of work.

(j) The information is given in the statement marked B which is placed on the table of the House.

(k) Yes, Sir.

(l) The whole of his pay is met from Central Revenues.

(m) All officials on the North East Frontier carry out the policy laid down by Government and it is not possible to attribute particularly administrative measures to individual officers. Comprehensive development plans have however been drawn up and are now under examination.

(n) The amount budgeted for expenditure from Central Revenues on development schemes during 1945-46 was Agriculture—Rs. 6,000, Medical—Rs. 62,500, and a sum of Rs. 76,100 was provided by the Centre for expenditure on roads. The comprehensive plans to which I have referred will involve expenditure of much higher order to be met from education, communications, agriculture, forestry and medical schemes during the next five years. The precise financial implications have yet to be worked out. The expenditure from Central Revenues on salaries of more than Rs. 500 p.m. is Rs. 8,842 plus £53 6s 8d per month for the current year.

"A" Statement of officers employed in the Tribal Areas in Assam drawing more than Rs. 500 p.m., who are paid from Central Revenues.

Serial No.	Name of Officer	Present pay Rs. per mensem
1	Mr. J. P. Mills	Rs. 3000 plus overseas Pay £13 6sh. 8d.
2	Mr. W. Micklejohn	Rs. 1,400
3	Major F. N. Betts	Rs. 1,370
4	Major G. St. G. T. Allen	Rs. 1,350
5	Mr. P. L. James	Rs. 650 plus Overseas Pay £15
6	Mr. C. R. Stonor	Rs. 800 plus Overseas Pay £25
7	Mr. Pugh	Rs. 572

"B" Statement showing the number of Districts in Assam in which Mr J. P. Mills has served, with dates

District	Station	Dates
Sibsagar	Jorhat	16th Dec 1913 to 24th Nov 1914
Sylhet	Sylhet	31st May 1915 to 1th Jan 1916
Cachar (Silchar)	Hulakandi	5th Jan 1916 to 12th Sept 1917
Naga Hills		13th Sept 1917 to 16th Apl 1921 24th Apl 1922 to 30th Apl 1925 14th Sept 1926 to 3rd Nov 1926
Cachar (Silchar)	Cachar (Silchar)	1st Feb 1927 to 11th June 1927 1st July 1927 to 15th Nov 1927 16th Nov 1927 to 2nd Jan 1928
Naga Hills		
Cachar (Silchar)	Cachar (Silchar)	3rd Jan 1928 to 23rd Sept 1928
Khasi and Jaintia Hills		24th Sept 1928 to 29th Sept 1928
Cachar (Silchar)	Cachar (Silchar)	4th Oct 1928 to 16th Apl 1929
Naga Hills	Kohima	8th March 1930 to 8th Apl 1934 22nd Dec 1935 to 5th March 1937

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri The Honourable Member aware that Mr Mills has been consistently opposed to the introduction of any representative Government in the hills?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru No, Sir. I am not aware of that fact, but I imagine that that opposition will not count for much when we have to introduce such a system of representative Government there.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri In view of that fact—and coming as I do from Assam I know that he was definitely opposed to the Nagas taking any part in the Government—and if it is found to be correct, will the Honourable Member see that at least at this juncture some Indian officer of experience is appointed to this post?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Obviously I cannot say who is going to be appointed and for what reasons. The House will remember that the question of these tribal areas like many other questions is coming up before the Constituent Assembly Advisory Committee.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri What I wanted to say is this. At this critical stage when the Constituent Assembly will be discussing these questions, we want to have an officer there who will be rather sympathetic than being opposed to the Nagas and other hill tribes coming under the new reforms.

Mr President What is the question? The Honourable Member is arguing.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri At this particular stage, will the Government assure that a more sympathetic officer is appointed?

Mr President That has been replied to.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru The only assurance I can give is that the Government will give the utmost consideration to the wishes of the tribal people and will seek their betterment.

TRIBAL AREAS IN ASSAM

58. ***Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri** Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state (a) if it is a fact that there is a budget for the tribal areas in Assam?

(b) Is it a fact that these tribal areas are called the North Eastern Agency?

(c) Is it a fact that there is a proposal by the Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Assam for tribal areas that these areas should form a separate area to be named North Eastern Frontier Area Agency and to be placed under the Crown and not to be included in the Constitution of India ?

(d) Is it a fact that there is a proposal by the Adviser that the Khasi States also should be included in the proposed North Eastern Frontier Area Agency ?

(e) Is it a fact that a Director or a Deputy Director of Agriculture has been appointed for the tribal areas ?

(f) Is it a fact that he is a British Military Major who has no plea of agriculture ?

(g) Is it a fact that his pay is about Rs. 1,200 ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (a) Yes.

(b) The term has at times been used loosely and is a matter of convenience. It has no official sanction.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal before Government.

(e) Yes, an Agricultural Officer has been appointed.

(f) He was an Emergency Commissioned Officer holding the rank of Major before he was released from military service. He has an Honours degree (Bachelor of Science) in Botany and Zoology. He has held several posts for biological research in connection with Botanical Survey and Fisheries in the United Kingdom and has had practical experience of horticulture.

(g) He is drawing Rs. 800 per month on the scale of Rs. 800 to Rs. 920 plus cost of living of Rs. 25 per month.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri Is it a fact that this military Major has no experience of agriculture in India ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru I have just told you what qualifications he has. I do not know him personally, but his paper of qualifications include knowledge of Agriculture, Botany and allied subjects.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri Is it a fact that his pay and allowance is much higher than those of other Deputy Directors of Agriculture in the Province ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru That I do not know. I will have to find out.

Sardar Mangal Singh. May I know if any part of the budget for these tribal areas is paid to the tribal chiefs, is hush money like the way in which it is done in the North West Frontier Province ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru So far as I know it is not so, but I am not absolutely certain. I will have to enquire into the matter.

BUDGET FOR THE TRIBAL AREAS IN ASSAM

59. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (a) Will the Honourable member for External Affairs be pleased to place in the Library of the House a copy of the budget for the tribal areas of Assam ?

(b) Is it a fact that the work or action of the Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Assam cannot be questioned in any Legislature whether Provincial or Central ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) A copy of the budget for the tribal areas of Assam for the year 1946-47 has been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) No, Sir. Relevant questions and Resolutions can be asked and moved in the Central Legislature with the consent of the Governor General under clause (ii) of the proviso to sub-rule (1) of Rule 8 and clause (ii) of sub-rule (2) of Rule 23, respectively, of the Indian Legislative Rules, and in the Provincial

Legislature with the consent of the Governor referred to in clause (d) of the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 84 of the Constitution Act

POLICY OF PROTECTIVE TARIFFS AND DISCRIMINATORY PROTECTION "

80. *Miss Maniben Kara Will the Secretary of the Commerce Department please state

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy of Government in regard to India's trade as outlined by him in his speech before the Trade Policy Committee, which held its meeting at Delhi on 19th and 20th September, 1946, consists of adopting protective tariffs more effectively than has been done in the past under the policy of "Discriminating Protection";

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government are aware that the application of this policy will result in the continuance of present shortages of consumer goods through restrictions on import of such goods, in view of the fact that a large increase in their production is not immediately possible; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above is in the affirmative, what measures Government propose to take to make available to the general mass of consumers larger quantity of essential goods at cheaper prices than those prevailing at present?

The Honourable Mr I. I. Chundrigar (a) The policy of Government in regard to India's foreign trade is recently outlined by the Honourable Mr C. H. Bhabha before the Trade Policy Committee. The objective is to bring about a large scale expansion of industry and agriculture not only through the use of tariffs but also by the adoption of more direct measures.

(b) and (c) Government do not consider that the application of such a policy will result in the shortage of consumer goods in the country, as due regard will be paid to the interests of the consumers, and imports of essential consumer goods will be liberally admitted unless it can be established that these imports will be detrimental to the interests of indigenous industries or to the orderly disposal of surpluses.

Miss Maniben Kara: Is the Government aware that there is a very great shortage of the consumer goods in the country?

The Honourable Mr I. I. Chundrigar There is.

Miss Maniben Kara Will the Honourable Member tell us what he proposes to do in order to relieve the difficulty, which is experienced due to lack of consumer goods in the country?

The Honourable Mr I. I. Chundrigar The shortage of consumer goods in the country now is due to the shortage in exporting countries and is also due partly to the need of conserving foreign exchange. However, we find that there is a progressive increase in production in other countries so far as consumer goods are concerned and in cases where the import of these consumer goods will not affect Indian industries or in cases where India does not manufacture these goods in the required quantities, attempts are made to import as much of these consumer goods as possible for the requirements of the people.

Miss Maniben Kara: Do I understand that the policy of the present Government will be that they are more concerned to safeguard the interests of the industries against the interests of the consumers? If the answer is that they have to safeguard the industry even while admitting that there is a shortage of consumer goods, then I understand the policy of the present Government will be to give sufficient safeguards to Indian industries at the cost of the consumers.

The Honourable Mr I. I. Chundrigar: The Honourable Member appears to be under the impression that Government can do only one thing and not the other. Government is trying to safeguard the interests both of the consumers and the industries.

Mr. Manu Subedar. Is it a fact that the Government is helping the consumers through the Disposal Department by disposing of as much as Rs 8 crores of goods every month?

The Honourable Mr I I Chundrigar. All the surpluses in the Disposal Department are being made available to the public and those consumer goods will be also available.

Mr. N. M. Joshi. In view of the fact that the interests of the consumers should be protected, will the Government revive the Consumers' Council which they hurriedly disbanded sometime ago?

The Honourable Mr I I Chundrigar. I am not aware of the dissolution of this Council and I require notice.

Mr Muhammad Nauman. May I know if in deciding discriminatory protection to the industry Government will take full stock of the question of the parity of prices (that of the raw materials in this country as they affect other parts of the world or of the consumers of finished goods at parity of prices in other parts of the world)? I think I am clear?

The Honourable Mr I I Chundrigar. So far as the Tariff Board is concerned protection is not given to any industry off hand. The matter is referred to the Tariff Board who fully enquire into the needs of protection for a particular industry and protection is given only when Government is satisfied that certain protection is necessary.

Mr Muhammad Nauman. The question I put is whether the question of the parity of prices to be maintained in this country for the consumers will be the chief consideration or not in the matter of the finished goods?

The Honourable Mr I I Chundrigar. The question of giving protection is also the question of the parity of prices prevailing in India is before the Government.

Miss Maniben Kara. Does the Honourable Member not believe that protection to an industry will result in depressing the wages of the worker?

The Honourable Mr I I Chundrigar. That is a separate question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. May I know from the Honourable Member if it is not a fact that the consumer goods, meaning food and clothing, are allowed more freely than luxury goods?

The Honourable Mr I I Chundrigar. That is already the policy of the Government.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. And therefore isn't it in the interests of India to prevent luxury, lipstick and other such goods and allow more freely food and clothing?

The Honourable Mr I I Chundrigar. That is a matter of opinion.

Mr Muhammad Nauman. What do you call luxury goods?

Mr President. Order order. Next question.

EMIGRATION OF INDIAN WORKERS TO BURMA AND MALAYA

61. ***Miss Maniben Kara.** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) the number, severally, of Indian nationals engaged in manual work and in commercial establishments who have migrated to Burma and Malaya,

(b) whether any correspondence has passed or consultation taken place between the Government of India and the Governments of Burma and Malaya in regard to resettlement of Indian nationals engaged in manual work or office establishments, displaced during the Japanese occupation,

(c) whether any request for migration of Indian Workers is received from the Government of Burma and Malaya,

(d) what policy Government propose to adopt regarding the emigration of Indian workers to those countries, and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of such workers in regard to wages, living conditions and civil and political rights?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the number of Indian nationals who have gone from India to Burma and Malaya after the war. A statement showing post-war departures of unskilled labourers and others to Burma and Malaya is placed on the table of the House. Roughly about 3,500 evanee labourers and about 58,000 others have left India. It is not possible to give separately figures of persons who were engaged on manual work and of those engaged in commercial establishments.

(b) Some correspondence as well as consultation in regard to the return of evanees (including labourers) and their resettlement in Burma and Malaya took place between the Government of India on the one hand and the Government of Burma and Mr C. D. Abenue, Colonial Office Representative in India, respectively on the other. It was decided that the evanees from Burma and Malaya had a right to return to those countries. No specific correspondence or consultations took place regarding the rehabilitation of Indians who were engaged in manual work in office establishments and were displaced due to circumstances created by the war.

(c) Two requests, one for the despatch of 25 cooks and the other for permission to recruit skilled workers (mainly clerks) in India for work in their Public Works and Audit Departments were received from the Government of Burma. 23 cooks were sent to Burma in March 1946 while in the latter case the Government of Burma were asked to apply through their nominated representative in India to the Protector of Emigrants, or accessary commission under Chapter IV of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922.

A request for the supply of 1,500 labourers for food production was received from the Government of Malaya in June but was refused.

(d) and (e). The emigration of skilled workers from India is governed by Chapter IV of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922. The emigration of unskilled labourers to Malaya and Burma was banned by the Government of India in 1938 and 1941 respectively. Evanee unskilled labourers proceeding to Burma have, however, been exempted from the operation of the ban. It is not intended to lift or relax the ban unless satisfactory conditions in respect of work and wages and status are assured by the Governments of Burma and Malaya. The conditions which the Government of India would desire the Governments of Burma and Malaya to ensure are still under consideration.

Statement showing post-war departures of unskilled labourers and others from India to Burma and Malaya

Evanees		Total		Non-Evanees		Total	Total
Unskilled Labourers	Others			Unskilled Labourers	Others		
3,327	32,416	** 49,743	BURMA	3	11,414	11,417	61,160
	182	182	MALAYA		1,074	1,074	1,256

** Includes 14,000 Shubinagar refugees who are shown neither as unskilled labourers nor others.

Miss Maniben Kara: In regard to (e) will the Honourable Member tell us whether the Government will consider the advisability of appointing officers in both these countries to protect the interests of the worker regarding their wages and conditions of life as they have done by appointing Trade Commissioners to protect the interests of trade and industry.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We have representatives of the Government of India in Rangoon and in Singapore at the present moment with staffs attached to them. It is their chief function to look after the interests of

the Indian labour population. If and when necessary we shall certainly add to their staff for this purpose.

Prof N G Ranga: Till very recently our officers in those countries have been concerning themselves more with the interests of the upper class of our own Indians than the welfare of our own Indian workers. Will Government consider the advisability of taking immediate steps to appoint some suitable officers to go and assist these agents in regard to our manual labour?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The representatives and Agents of the Government of India are supposed to carry out the directions and instructions given to them and so far as I know I have no reason to suspect that they have acted against those instructions. If the Government of India's instructions are let us say, in favour of a particular class, they will carry them out. So far as we are concerned we are interested in protecting all interests but more especially those people who are not in a position to protect their own interests, that is the labour population.

Miss Maniben Kara: Am I to understand from the Honourable Member that he is of the opinion that one must be told to look after the interests of both industry and labour at the same time?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There are certain interests which are national and there are other interests which might be termed class interests. National interests can certainly be looked after by one person, other interests occasionally require separate treatment and separate looking after.

Miss Maniben Kara: Does the Honourable Member not think that class interests can assess all National interests?

Mr President: Order, order. No arguments please. Next question.

ADOPTION OF MINERS' CHARTER BY THE INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON COAL

62. *Miss Maniben Kara: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether Government are aware that the basic principles of Miners' Charter to be prepared by the International Labour Organisation were adopted by the International Industrial Committee on Coal at its first meeting held in London in December 1945?

(b) Are Government aware that a resolution was passed at the same meeting calling upon Member Governments to give immediate effect to the principles adopted?

(c) What steps have Government taken to give effect to that resolution?

(d) In case no steps have been taken so far, do Government intend taking any?

(e) What are those steps, and when will they be taken?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member is not quite accurate in saying that the committee passed a resolution calling upon member Governments to give immediate effect to the principles. But it did pass a resolution expressing its wish that while taking the situation in their respective countries into consideration, Governments should strive to give effect as soon as possible to the reforms recommended by it. Acting under instructions from the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation the Director International Labour Office has since then communicated the Committee's resolution to the Government of India for their information and for such action as they might think appropriate.

(e) Government of India propose to set up a National Industrial Committee on Coal on a tripartite basis to advise them as regards the administrative and legislative measures to be taken by Government or to promote collective agreements between employers and workers with a view to giving effect to the eight-point charter suggested by the International Industrial Committee on Coal Mining. The Coal Mines Welfare Fund has been instituted for financing schemes

designed for the social betterment of the mine workers and their families. Government of India have recently decided to set up a Committee to enquire into and make recommendations as to what would be reasonable wages for workers of different categories in the coal mines.

- (d) and (e) Government also propose to examine in consultation with the National Industrial Committee on coal mining as soon as it is set up questions relating to the provision of annual holidays with pay, reduction in hours of work, improvement of working conditions, the institution of a scheme of counselling, accident insurance and training courses for new entrants.

Miss Maniben Kara May I know the approximate time that the Honorable Member proposes to take to give effect to this resolution by setting up the tripartite machinery?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram As a matter of fact we have asked the various Provincial Governments and organisations of employers and workers about their opinion on the formation of this tripartite conference and as soon as we get their opinion we will set up the conference.

Miss Maniben Kara Do I understand that the Honorable Member has not so far received their opinions on this point?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram We have not so far received opinions from all of them.

Miss Maniben Kara May I know whether as the Honorable Member said in reply to one of the questions, he hopes to initiate the decision of the F. I. O.?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram As far as possible.

DEMAND FOR A TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE IN COAL INDUSTRY IN THE STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

63. *Miss Maniben Kara (1) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that a demand for convening a tripartite conference of the coal industry was put forward by Labour representatives at the 8th meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held in March, 1946?

(b) Is it a fact that the Indian Federation of Labour put forward a similar demand?

(c) Why have Government not convened such a tripartite conference?

(d) Will Government consider the desirability of convening such a conference at an early date?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (1) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Proposals for the constitution of a National Industrial Committee on Coal mining have been circulated to the Provincial and State Governments and organisations of employers and workers. Replies have not been received from all of them.

(d) It is Government's intention to convene a conference as soon as proposals for the constitution of the Conference have been finalised.

Miss Maniben Kara Can the Honorable Member give some idea about the setting up of the machinery for this purpose?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram I have already replied to this in my answer to the previous question.

SUPPLY BY V. P. P. OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

64. *Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Honourable Member for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Manager of Publications does not supply Government publications by V. P. P.,

(b) whether it is a fact that persons desiring Government publications have to send money in advance to him,

(c) whether it is a fact that it being not possible to compute the exact charge that may be needed for packing and postage, more money is sent than is actually ultimately spent

(d) whether it is a fact that the balance is not immediately sent back in stamps or other ways and sometimes it is kept over for further orders

(e) whether it is a fact that unnecessary correspondence has to be undertaken to recover petty amounts, which costs more than the amounts themselves and

(f) whether he will consider the proposal that Government publications be supplied by V P P ?

Mr B K Gokhale (a) and (b) The Manager of Publications does supply Government publications by V P P if specifically asked to do so provided the cost of the publication is not very small

(c) All priced publications are sent by post to all addressees who order without any extra charge for packing and postage. The same generally made clear in advertisements issued by the Manager of Publications

(d) and (e) People who are not aware of the rules mentioned above send out money to cover packing and postage. Refunds are then made by money order through the Treasury Office against bills prepared by the Manager, Central Publication Branch after they are passed through the A G C R. No refunds are ever made in stamps. Government are considering the possibility of simplifying the procedure for refund in such cases to expedite matters.

(f) Does not arise in view of the reply to (c) and (d)

Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Honorable Member kindly make sure from the Manager of Publications if he has not written more than once to correspondents that his publications are not supplied by V P P and whether it is not a fact that a few muns of muni are still lying with him and have not been returned yet?

Mr B K Gokhale Sir, I have stated the rules but if the Honorable Member will give me the facts I will make enquiries. The Manager of Publications may be acting against the rules if what is stated is true.

Shri Sri Prakasa I can give the facts but not the dates. Will the Honorable Member advise me as to what I should do to recover those few muns of muni?

Mr. Ahmed E H Jaffer Will the Honorable Member issue instructions to the Manager of Publications to set up machinery to expedite the orders of the Honourable Members of this House for the supply of Assembly stationery? I know from my own experience that it has taken as much as six months.

Shri Sri Prakasa He does not even reply to letters.

Mr B K Gokhale Sir, the points raised will be examined.

PETTY BALANCE LEFT OVER UNCLAIMED WITH THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS AFTER RECEIVING ORDERS FOR GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

65. *Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Honorable Member for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state

(a) the amount of money lying with the Manager of Publications or with the Department concerned on his behalf as unclaimed petty balances left over after meeting all expenses in connection with orders for Government publications from the Manager of Publications,

(b) what Government are intending to do with this balance, and

(c) if Government propose to refund the amounts due to the persons concerned?

Mr B K Gokhale: (a) Rs. 17,562 made up as follows:

	Rs
(i) balance of subscription accounts due for repayment	14,249
(ii) balance of other petty accounts	2,775
(iii) Amount received from 1944-45 onwards owing to money orders not being delivered to the addressees	538
	— — —
	17,562
	— — —

(b) and (c) The balance is always returned to the persons concerned provided they can be traced. For instance, it is doubtful if the amount of Rs. 538 under item (iii) can be returned. The other items will be returned to the persons concerned as soon as possible. Large balances have unfortunately accumulated partly due to pressure of work during war time. The Controller of Printing and Stationery is being asked to expedite the return of outstanding balances as quickly as possible.

Mr Manu Subedar: May I know whether in view of these difficulties Government will examine the possibility of simplifying the procedure for supplying Government publications to the public by appointing one bookseller agent in every city so that the money transactions would take place with the bookseller in every city instead of these remittances?

Mr B K Gokhale: Sir, the procedure is being examined with a view to simplification.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member himself has admitted that a large amount of money is lying with the Manager of Publications, how does he justify his previous statement in answer to my previous question that all this money is sent back by money order?

Mr B K Gokhale: Sir, the procedure is that nothing is received in cash and nothing is returned in cash direct by the Manager of Publications. What he has to do is to prepare vouchers and sign money order forms which are then passed on to the Treasury Officer. Then they go to the Accountant General, Central Revenue. Then by book transfer the amount is given to the Post Office and sent back. On the return journey I believe the same complicated procedure is followed. No actual cash is handled and that is why all this difficulty crops up. But the matter is being examined with a view to simplification.

66 Withdrawn

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT OVER PRICES OF JUTE AND JUTE MANUFACTURES

15 Mr K C Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary of the Commerce Department be pleased to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement explaining the controversy that has been going on between the Central Government and the Government of Bengal in regard to the control over prices of jute and jute manufactures, and fully indicating the point of view of the Central Government about the matter, with particular reference to the Press statement of the Chief Minister of Bengal dated, New Delhi, October 12, 1946, on the subject?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please place on the table of the House copies of material correspondence on this subject that has passed between the Government of India and the Government of Bengal?

The Honourable Mr. I I Chundrigar: (a) I lay on the table a copy each of the two Press Communiqués issued by the Government of India on the subject. The position has been fully explained therein.

(b) It is not usual to lay on the table copies of confidential correspondence between Provincial Governments on the one hand and the Government of India on the other. It will not be in public interests to do so.

Press Communiqué

The Government of India have decided to terminate the Jute Export Control Order 1946 with immediate effect.

This order, it will be recalled, was conceived as an anti-inflationary measure as also with the object of ensuring that supplies of packing material were made available at reasonable prices to all countries of the world for facilitating the movement of cereals.

The Provincial Governments concerned, however, did not take steps to continue the control over internal prices with the result that jute prices in India have increased sharply while exports have been dislocated. In the long run controlled export prices of jute and jute manufactures cannot fail to influence the internal price level but this would involve a long process resulting in undesirable fluctuation of prices and dislocation of trade. The Government of India have therefore decided to withdraw the price control over exports.

At the same time in order to reduce as far as possible the inflationary effects of an uncontrolled export prices the Government have decided to enhance the export duty on raw jute and jute goods. The high prices resulting from the control will benefit the growers of this commodity and a substantial part of the proceeds of the enhanced export duty will accrue to the principal producing provinces.

The Indian Tariff Act Amendment Ordinance, 1946 promulgating the new rates of duty has issued in a Gazette Extraordinary dated 23rd October 1946.

The Government of India intend to continue the quantitative control over exports of raw jute and jute goods so that exports of Indian jute may be equitably distributed among all countries of the world.

Commerce Department

New Delhi the 23rd October 1946

Press Communiqué

With the expiry of the Defence of India Act and the Rules framed thereunder on the 30th September 1946 the control of internal prices of jute and jute goods will revert to the Provinces.

In view, however, of the responsibility that devolves on the Government of India for the supply of packing material at a reasonable price to all countries of the world so that the free flow of foodgrains from surplus to deficit areas may not be impeded and the urgent need that exists for countering inflation and also having regard to the larger interests of the country as a whole the Government of India have decided to continue the Export Price Control provisions of the jute (Price Control) Order 1945. An order incorporating these provisions is being issued in a Gazette Extraordinary on the 1st October 1946 under Rule 84 of the Defence of India Rules as continued in force by the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance (Ordinance XX of 1946).

Department of Commerce,

New Delhi the 30th Sept 1946

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

ENQUIRY INTO HOOGHAGANISM DURING PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU'S FRONTIER TOUR

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honorable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the serious allegations made by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Rai Bahadur Mehr Chand Khumra, (Information Minister, North West Frontier Province) in their Press statements published in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 18th, 21st and 22nd October, 1946, against the Political Department in connection with the hooliganism indulged in by a section of the Muslims during the Honorable Member's recent visit to the Tribal Areas in the North West Frontier Province? If so, are the allegations true?

(b) What Steps do Government propose to take in the matter? Do they propose to set up an enquiry?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) The statements referred to contain chiefly expressions of opinion and some facts. There is no doubt that there was a great deal of violence during the course

of the visit to the N W F Province and the Tribal Areas. This violence resulted in injury and damage. It was fortunate that this injury and damage were not much greater than the actuals were. As to who was behind this organized violence various opinions can be formed and inferences drawn. It would not be right to apportion blame fully without more knowledge. The matter is being inquired into.

It is evident that the references to the Political Department are not accurate. Probably what is meant is that some officials of the Local Administration both in the Frontier Province and the Tribal Areas are concerned. This is a matter again for further enquiry.

In view of the confusion that prevails regarding the Political Department it is desirable to clarify the constitutional position. The Political Department as such deals with the Indian States only through Residents and Political Agents accredited to States and groups of States. The External Affairs Department is something separate from the Political Department and is *inter alia* responsible for Frontier affairs and Tribal Areas. This Department is an integral of the Central Government under the control of the Governor General-in-Council. The Political Department on the other hand is the Secretariat of the Crown Representative and is controlled by the Political Adviser to the Crown Representative. This is not under the Central Government. The only constitutional link between the Political and External Affairs Departments is provided by the Viceroy in his dual capacity as Governor General and Crown Representative.

The confusion regarding the Political Department has apparently arisen from the fact that till now there has been a common Indian Political Service. The officers of this service belong to a joint cadre which serves both the Crown Representative and External Affairs Department. All these officers have been normally called Political Officers.

The Indian Political Service has been drawn in the past chiefly from the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Army. The I.C.S. has provided about 1/3rd of the cadre and the Indian Army about 2/3rds. There are also a few persons in it from the Indian Police and some who have been promoted from the Provincial Service. The Secretary of State for India is ultimately in charge of this Service. The Political Adviser to the Crown Representative is the senior officer of the Service.

Before the formation of the Interim Government the Viceroy functioned as Member for External Affairs. He was and is also the Crown Representative.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta. May I know whether it is a fact that the Honorable member was advised not to proceed to the tribal areas by the Political Department?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I am sorry that in spite of my explanation as to what the Political Department is the Honourable Member goes on using those words. The Political Department as such has nothing to do with me or with giving me advice or not. It is a department dealing with the Indian States but it leaves me whether I was advised to go there or not, certainly I was advised by some to go and by others not to go.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta. Is it a fact that the programme and arrangements made for the Honorable Member's tour were kept secret from the ministers of the North West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I believe that the final programme was really drawn up probably—I do not know—may be a day or two before my arrival there. What was kept secret from whom I do not know, but it is a fact that it was not drawn up till almost just a day or two before my arrival. Probably some people did not know.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer. Is it true, as reported in the papers, that the Provincial Governor of the North West Frontier Province specially came down to suggest a postponement of the Honourable Member's visit?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a perfectly correct report.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that inquiries are being carried on in this matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The matter has been referred to the people in charge in those areas for inquiry.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: May I inquire whether British Indian law prevails in what are known as the tribal areas?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No. British Indian law or any other law applying in British India does not prevail there (except in so far as sometimes armies and troops are made to march there and they take such steps as they are ordered to). The House will remember, that the so-called tribal areas represent a belt of territory between what is known as British India and Afghanistan—that is, in the conception of India those tribal territories are included, but not in British India. The boundary of India is between the tribal territories and Afghanistan, but British India which is British administered India ends where tribal territories begin.

Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: That being so does the question of an inquiry arise at all in that case which we call "Ghan Haque" (that is foreign Territory)?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: When one refers to an inquiry, it does not refer to an inquiry in regard to the people of those areas but to the officials concerned in those areas who function under the various departments of the Government of India or the Provincial Government as the case may be.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that whereas Congressmen were allowed no access to the tribal areas, others who were opposed to the Honourable Member's visit to that area had free access to that area?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: In the past those areas were more or less hermetically sealed and nobody could enter there without permits. Those permits were given according to the likes and dislikes of the officer in charge. Some statements and allegations have been made in the past which support the Honourable Member's suggestion. However, very recently a change in policy has been introduced allowing far greater freedom for people to go there and for people to come from there, which I think is a very healthy thing, so that there may be greater contact between the different areas.

Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: There is no intention therefore to bring these tribal areas within the boundaries and confines of the British Empire?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That question does not arise at all. What the position of the tribal areas, internal and external, is going to be as the House no doubt knows is going to be considered by the Constituent Assembly or rather by the Advisory Committee of the Constituent Assembly and that will ultimately depend on all manner of considerations and agreements between the parties concerned.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member what was the urgency and motive behind this tour which was so hurriedly taken by the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir. This relates to another question. Within three or four days of our assuming charge, I heard that bombing operations were going on in Waziristan and all of us, of course, were perturbed by this. Fortunately these operations could be stopped very soon. In fact they stopped within 48 hours of this knowledge and were finally over within three or four days. Now this matter brought the question of the whole Frontier policy before us and in discussing it with our officers in our department, it was suggested to me by our senior officers that it would be a good thing for me to visit the Frontier, and to meet the officers of the department, including the Chief Officer there who is the Governor also and some representatives of the tribal people and I cordially agreed with this suggestion of my department. Later I suggested that some dates might be fixed up. There was no hurry about it. As a matter of

fact, it took about two or three weeks for this question to develop and to be discussed. When the final dates were fixed up, it was probably about 10 days before I went. Actually it was more than 10 days. Then the detailed programme came after.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan. There is an impression abroad that the Government of India finally propose the annexation of the tribal area with India. Is there any truth in this?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. I am not aware at all of that. I do not think there is any truth in it. I have not heard any suggestion to that effect before from any responsible quarter at least.

Pandit Govind Malaviya. Will the Government take steps to undo the mischief which is obviously being done by parties outside and elsewhere by that suggestion?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is difficult to catch hold of such mischief but one of the purposes of my visit was to remove any such misapprehensions from any person's mind.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Was the Honourable Member successful?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I think I was partly, if not largely, successful.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

BOMBING OF TRIBAL AREAS IN WAZIRISTAN

Mr. President: I shall now take up the adjournment motions. I understand from office that we have received the Governor General's assent for the motion from Mr. Tinnazuddin Khan. I find the Honourable Member is not present in the House today.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Pitua and Chota Nagpur *con* Orissa, Muhammadan). I have got a letter of authority from him to move the adjournment motion on his behalf, as he has had to go away on very urgent business. If the Chair permits me, I am prepared to move it.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member knows that last session I had given a considered ruling on the question whether a member who is absent could give authority to another member to move an adjournment motion on his behalf. I decided that that cannot be permitted under the Rules and Standing Orders.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman. The Honourable Member who gave notice was present in the House yesterday. He would have moved it if he were present today. As he had to leave the House urgently, I am prepared to move it if the Chair gives the facility.

Mr. President: This point was covered by the ruling which I gave. There is no question of that motion now coming up for consideration. It drops out.

USE OF TEAR GAS OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL HOUSE

Mr. President: Then there is the motion from the Honourable Member Mr. Nauman who wants to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"the use of tear gas on the 28th October 1946 at 10.20 A.M. or about, just outside the Assembly Chamber resulting in injury to the eyes and annoyance to many members of the Assembly."

May I know what the Honourable the Home Member has to say about it?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Home Member). Sir, I shall place a few facts before the House about this incident in order to correctly estimate the relative importance of it. Just at about 10.10 A.M. yesterday, a crowd of about 500 people assembled near the eastern gate of the Assembly Chamber. Some of these people were armed with lathis and hockey sticks. The crowd began

to be rowdy and a fracas took place. They began to exchange blows and in order to remove the obstruction from the passage for the Honourable Members of this House, the police officer who was standing by who had taken precautions apprehending trouble, threw a small tear gas grenade and the result was that the smoke some of it permeated in the House. The Chamber because of the comparative coolness of the inside atmosphere or because of the cooling arrangements inside drew the smoke inside. This was done in order to avoid greater trouble and to provide for the safe exitance of the Honourable Members. The harm done is comparatively negligible and a little annoyance of this nature is sometimes considered as amusing rather than as irritant and I think that this is not a matter of such public importance as to allow the admission of this motion.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman. May I say again that it is not a question of a little annoyance as the Honourable Member has said. The question is—why did the police allow the crowd to gather and to develop a situation where tear gas had to be used. This is the whole issue which the Honourable Member has to look into. I have been in the House for over 12 years and I have never seen a crowd gather at the gates and make a demonstration. If the Honourable the House Member makes an inquiry he will find out that these crowds included probably clerks or interested persons. Unless every precaution is taken things might develop to a serious extent. Tear gas might develop into something else tomorrow and there might be worse happenings.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Point raised here is the use of tear gas and not why crowds were allowed to assemble. I have no experience about the crowds assembling near the Assembly Chamber before but I can say this that since a month and a half that we have been here I have been noticing crowds assembling here so much so that the Deputy Commissioner here had to issue an order under section 144. It is usually violated by the servants of the Secretariat Departments. The crowd that assembled yesterday before the Assembly Chamber according to the report consisted mostly of the servants of the various Departments who were estimated to be 80 per cent. About 20 per cent perhaps were from outside. But the reference made about the use of the tear gas was the basis of this adjournment motion and not the collection of the crowds or the provocation of the crowds.

Mr. President. Order, order. I do not think further discussion is necessary on this question. Anyway, as has been pointed out by the Honourable the House Member the basis here is the wording of the motion shows, is entirely different from what the Honourable Member is now trying to make out. I do not think that the motion is of such importance that I can admit it.

REPORTS ON THE WORK OF INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS—LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House). Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Reports on the work of the Indian Delegation to the Preparatory Commission and the First Part of the First Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

MOTION RE THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BREITON WOODS AGREEMENTS

Mr. President: Further consideration of the motion moved by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan yesterday, namely

"That this Assembly, having considered the third report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Agreements, do hereby approve India's continued membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development."

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division, Muhammadin Rural) Sir, I was discussing yesterday about the stabilisation of prices and I pointed out that I had been pressing this question for the last 15 years and I was unfortunate in not having the support of any Member from the Treasury Benches or of any member of the Assembly. I was glad that Dr. John Mitthai supported this view. I understand the Government of India would concentrate their attention to this very important problem of the stabilisation of prices. Sir, it is asserted sometimes that the rise of prices is due to inflation and if inflation could be removed the prices would come down to normal conditions. I do not understand the significance of this because if you stop publication of currency notes, it would not follow that the prices will at once come down. There may be scarcity of currency and ordinary business will be impeded. If you want really to stabilise the prices in this country the first and foremost thing that you have to do is to fix the price of paper rupee in terms of gold and silver. That is the first thing to be done without which nothing can happen. Attempts were made to stabilise the price of wheat in 1942 but without success. Then an attempt was made to stabilise the price of textile by the Commerce Member in 1945. That also proved of no avail. Therefore, no attempt can be effective unless we stabilise the price of rupee in terms of gold and in India naturally in terms of silver also. Now to remove this obstacle we have really to fix not only the purchasing power of the rupee but also the sale value of the sterling. The United Nations Organisation and the B.N.F. have fixed the purchasing power of gold at Rs. 43 per tola, but they have left out altogether its sale value. The result is that the prices in India where gold is sold to the highest bidder has come very high. Not only this, but the Reserve Bank acts as a kind of black market for the sale of gold for foreign countries. The Reserve Bank only gets commission and the profit goes to foreign countries. Both these things ought to be stopped. Sir, I requested Sir Chintamani Deshmukh when he went to America to see that the United Nations Bank should fix not only the purchasing price of gold but also the sale price of gold. Thus he could not do, probably he had no opportunity to move in the matter. Therefore, one of the things which our representatives in the United Nations Monetary Conference should insist is that the sale price should also be fixed which should be something in the neighbourhood of the purchasing price with a margin of 4 or 5 per cent. India is in a special position compared with other countries. In other countries people are not accustomed to put their savings in the shape of precious metals. In India from time immemorial people keep their savings in gold and silver which are also used for ornaments, which have become more or less necessary in this country. Therefore, the demand for the purchase of gold is much greater in this country than it is in any other. Besides, unfortunately India is the only country which eats gold and silver in the shape of leaves. The consumption of these two metals in this way is not only in maunds but in tons every year. Therefore, for these two reasons the consumption of gold in India is comparatively much greater than it is in any other country. When you fix the price of paper rupee, it is essential that four things should be taken note of otherwise your attempts will fail. Firstly, we must insist that the sale price of gold should be fixed by the United Nations Organisation. Secondly, the Government of India should have the monopoly of sale of gold and silver and it should be sold only by licensed persons. Thirdly, the Reserve Bank of India should no longer act as the Agents of other countries and sell gold at black market prices to the highest bidder. The price should be the same as fixed by the United Nations Organisation Conference. Fourthly, I would refer to the policy with regard to bullion exchange, so that there may be no gambling in this precious metal. If we fix the prices of gold and silver and the monopoly is taken by the Government, then naturally bullion exchange will be abolished. As soon as the price of gold and silver are fixed, the next stage would be—to regulate the price of cloth, which the Government will find it extremely difficult to do. I have repeatedly said that I have not found a single Commerce Member or a Finance Member for the last 15 years who has not been in the 'pockets' of the textile manufacturers in this

country. The only solution that I would suggest is to nationalise the textile industry and in that way alone the problem of handloom industry will also be solved. In England they have also taken some steps to nationalise certain industries and I hope this country will follow their example. The United Kingdom has nationalised coal, power and transport. I would like to add to this list two more things in this country, so that the competition with cottage industry may be avoided. These two commodities are textile and sugar. Unless the sugar industry is nationalised, it is impossible really to protect the industry of *gur* and *khand*, which were really our great glory in the past. This is really the next step that we should take. After stabilising the prices of gold and cloth, the next step will be the stabilisation of the prices of wheat and rice. Now as regards wheat and rice, you can always take up the question in consultation with the provincial governments. I gave notice of a Bill last time, but the Food Member managed to get the refusal of the Governor General for the introduction of my Bill. This Bill was against hoarding and about the fixation of prices. If the farmers and cultivators get gold, silver and cloth at moderate prices for their wheat then they will be willing to part with their wheat. They would not part with wheat for paper money that we give them now. They set no value on the bundles of paper money they may get for their wheat. They do not even care to count the numbers of notes they give to vendors. Whenever they go to a shop to purchase cloth or other things, they simply throw the bundles of notes before the shopkeeper and ask him to take as many notes as he wants in return for the things they purchase, because they do not appreciate the value of the notes. This is what is happening in most parts of the country. You must therefore fix a price for wheat, rice, textiles, gold, silver and then the price of other articles will automatically be adjusted without any further trouble. Action will have to be taken by the whole Government in this matter. It is not the work of any single member of Government. The Honourable the Finance Member, the Honourable Commerce Member, no single member can tackle this question. This should be the concern of the Cabinet as a whole. Then they will have the support of the entire country in their attempt to stabilise prices. This extremely difficult task will have to be faced if you really want to have some kind of peace in the country. Otherwise the troubles will always be there.

The next question which I want to take up is the bank rate of interest. I said last time that the former Finance Member concentrated his attention to the problem of stabilisation of bank rate of interest and reducing the bank rates as much as he possibly can. The bank rate of interest has already been reduced to about 2½ per cent and the plea that was given to us was that he wanted cheap money in order to develop industry. Do you really want cheap money to develop industry or do you want to help the industrialists to make some more profit? Is that the object? If it is meant to help the industry, then I am one with you. But if it meant to help the industrialist, then I strongly oppose it. The reason which I gave last time was this. Is it fair that these industrialists should get cheap money from the bank at 2½ per cent and then invest it in business and get a dividend of 35 to 40 per cent for the shareholders? I have got here a list of companies, I do not like to waste the time of the House in giving out the percentage of dividends declared by each company. If the Government regulate the rate of bank interest at 2½ per cent, it is also then duty to see that these industrialists do not give say more than 4 or 5 per cent in the shape of dividends. It is criminal to allow the companies to pay 30 or 40 per cent.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadian Fund)
When they run at a loss?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend puts me a question. This loss must be taken up in the account of shareholders so that they may be entitled to a minimum rate of interest and if there is loss it must be made good in the future years by giving higher rate of interest. I am quite prepared to do that. Unless the Government are prepared to regulate dividends to be allowed to

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these companies, it is not really fair to reduce the bank rate of interest in this manner. The other point which the Honourable the Finance Member has to look into is that by reducing the bank rate of interest we are really reducing the wealth of the country. What is the fate of all charitable institutions which have invested their wealth in 3½ per cent securities? Now that you have reduced the rate of interest, their wealth is suddenly diminished. Really speaking we are putting a premium on dishonesty and putting a discount on the honesty of a person. I am all in favour of cheap money to develop industry, but I am bitterly opposed to provide cheap money for the benefit of the shareholder. That ought not to be our motive. This ought to be put down with a firm hand. If you stabilise prices, then automatically the bank rate of interest will be readjusted. I may remind my Honourable friend Dr John Matthai about the method adopted by Lord Keynes to calculate the bank rate of interest. This method will not apply to India for two reasons. In the first place you cannot put down on paper the amount of corruption now going on in the Government of India departments all round. The amount under the head of corruption cannot be calculated. Secondly there is a good deal of black market going on where no income-tax is paid and it cannot be calculated. The only way of finding how much money is really going into the black market and in the shape of corruption is by following the quantum of inflation. That is the only indication to find approximately the amount of corruption and black market. Therefore on account of these two special factors, the formula of Lord Keynes will not apply to this country. If you fix the purchasing power of the rupee at one rupee per tola as it used to be before the war and if you fix the price of gold at Rs. 43 per tola, which is the rate in the world market for silver and gold, then I am sure the bank rate of interest and other things will automatically be adjusted. I want to put one question to Dr John Matthai. What is the effect of reduction of bank rate of interest on the price level? Is it not a fact that by reducing the bank rate of interest, the prices go up? The prices never go down. This deliberate policy which the previous Finance Members followed in framing their financial proposals is the root cause of the present position of distress in this country. The prices are persisting to remain at this high level because of that wrong policy. If an honest man wants to put money in Government securities thinking them to be safe, he is under a discount. If a dishonest man puts the same money somewhere else, then the Government helps him to earn more money. Dishonesty is at a premium. These are things which require to be carefully looked into. I hope the present Government will face the question squarely and remove all the difficulties that faced the country in the past.

Reference was made by my Honourable friends Mr. Manu Subedar and Mr. Gadgil to the question of sterling balances. I do not like the method of liquidating sterling balances suggested by my friends, that is take away all the property of Europeans in this country. How would you like the South African Government expropriating all the assets of Indians in South Africa and sending Indians bag and baggage to India. There will be a great howl and I would certainly move an adjournment motion for this purpose, but probably the Government will have no reply because it is not the doing of the Government. An adjournment motion will be of no use.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor non-Muhammadian Rural): What would happen if Indians in Africa owed the South African Government money? What would happen?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: There are other ways of adjusting these sterling balances, and I will deal with it now. I said that India is very much interested in this question because this is not money which we have invested in a bank in England as our surplus but which by force of circumstances and through the privations and suffering of poor people have been accumulated in England. The question has not become important on account of the United Nations Bank and Monetary Organisation—sterling balances have really no bearing on the question.

we are discussing now—but because of the loan agreement between the U K and U S A I do not like this loan agreement at all because I think it is a Shylock's agreement, a loan of 3 75 billion pounds at 2 p c interest, and much of this loan will have to be spent in America so that their surplus goods may find way to other countries It is exorbitant, but that is a question between the U K and the U S A, though any impartial person will consider the rate much too high When you give them a loan at 2 p c interest and ask them to use the loan for purchasing articles in the country itself you automatically raise the price level of the articles which the U S A will supply to the U K But what we are now concerned with is how it affects our sterling balances, and that question has become important because of clause 6(1) They have put down certain headings which they have reserved for the repayment of the American loan, and then they say

"It is understood that any amounts required to discharge the obligations of the United Kingdom to third countries"—and our sterling balances are included in it—"outstanding on the effective date of this agreement will be found from sources other than the line of credit"

So we have to find out what the resources are from which the sterling balances have to be paid Then in clause 10 they say further

"Settlements with the sterling area countries will be on the basis of dividing these accumulated balances into three categories

(a) balances to be released at once and convertible into any currency for current transaction,

(b) balances to be similarly released by instalments over a period of years beginning in 1951

(c) balances to be adjusted as a contribution to the settlement of war and postwar indebtedness and recognition of the benefits which the countries concerned might be expected to gain from such settlement'

We cannot be a party to this clause (c) At any rate we are not concerned in this and it is only an agreement between the U S A and the U K to which we are not a party We were not consulted and we did not give our consent to it So this method of payment is a question of great urgency and should be settled The Government of India have not been indifferent about it The Committee of the Council decided long ago to send a deputation to the U K to settle this matter, but the difficulty was that the report of that Committee could not go to the Government who appointed that Committee Since political conditions were rather fluid the question was postponed Now we have a stable Government with the full support of the country behind them and they can tackle this matter more easily than their predecessors could do There are two ways of settling it Mr Manu Subedar thinks that as between a debtor and creditor it is the debtor who should come to the creditor for a settlement In theory it may be correct for small parties but as between two nations it is a different matter, and I have always held that it is more advantageous for a deputation to go from here to England than to receive a deputation from England in this country My first reason is that whoever settles it on behalf of Government, Government themselves should not be a party in first negotiation but should be in a position to examine the recommendations of their deputation, and this House should also examine them, before accepting or rejecting those recommendations On the other hand if a deputation comes to this country they will talk to Government Members, to the Leaders of Parties and to Chambers of Commerce, etc The Government Members will be in an embarrassing position in that case, because they cannot argue that they will give their opinion later on So at first it must be entrusted to a deputation and Government may decide later one way or the other Secondly, we have to explore the means and methods by which payment can be made Here we have to depend on two factors,—the opinion or advice or information given by the deputation which comes from England and upon the advice of the Reserve Bank But if the deputation goes from here to England they will interview large number of persons and examine the

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proposals from broader view point, they will talk with persons of different opinions and study the conditions of the United Kingdom, and explore possibilities of the various means of payment. So the field of discussion will be wider and the responsibility of Government will be very much restricted. Then it will be for Government to formulate their views, if they are not satisfied they will either invite a deputation or send another deputation. So my view has always been—that was the view of the Committee of the Council and also of the Finance Member's predecessors—that in the first instance a deputation should go from here and then make recommendations before Government which will make a decision on the facts before them as to how the sterling balances should be repaid. But whatever it may be, it is certain that India cannot afford to lose the sterling balances because they represent the suffering of our people and we must have them back. It is the method of repayment which is to be considered. We do not want Bank of England notes which are of no use to us. No country has gold and so we cannot have them back in gold, we will have to get them back in the shape of commodities. But what the commodities will be and what portion of the sterling balances can be changed into dollar and other hard currencies are points which will have to be discussed by negotiation, and we should try to have as much freedom as possible. We have to give facilities to our debtor so that we may be able to get back the full value and the full amount back. We have also to consider whether after a certain date interest should not be charged for the surplus amount. All these points will have to be considered, but the important thing on which we all agree is that this point should be considered in full. As regards par value I strongly believe that present conditions should continue and I have given notice of a Resolution to this effect.

So far I have been discussing what may be called subsidiary problems, or irrelevant points, and now I come to the main issue, i.e. whether we should accept the motion now before us.

I ask this question first of all whether we want trade with other countries? My Honorable friend Dr John Matthai, said that the prosperity of every nation depends upon trade. We all agree with him and this has been the policy of the Government which is evident from the fact that they are appointing Trade Commissioners everywhere. I ask how are you going to carry on the trade with every other country? In old days the balance of trade that is the difference between the import and export, was made good by gold and in those days gold occupied the position of an autocratic monarch. After the war, however, gold was dethroned altogether and the currencies of all the countries were demobilized, and there was a great confusion. Later on in 1932 gold was enthroned again, not as an autocratic ruler but as a democratic monarch. Gold was not there and transactions were made in the name of gold. This position also does not hold good now. We are now shaping democratic rulers in the shape of the United Nations monetary policy and the United Nations Bank. If two countries trade with each other then balance will be adjusted through these organizations, and this will act as a clearing house for all these different countries the balance plus or minus will be put down to the account of the countries concerned. That is I think the best way of dealing with this question. Now if we do not join this bank what will be the mode of trade with other countries? My Honorable friend Mr Minu Subedi suggested that we can directly establish relations with other countries. Now supposing you want to have relations with Cuba how will you establish those relations? Cuba people will not sell you anything unless you are prepared to pay them in Cuba currency, and how are you going to get it?

Then you may take it for granted that after this International Bank is established, the banks which have so far been conducting this particular function will no longer continue to do so, because they will say this is the function of the United Nations Bank, and so they will transfer this for that Bank. Therefore I cannot visualize how we can carry on our trade with other countries.

if we choose to stand out Russia can keep aloof because it is in a different position altogether. It is self-supporting, it is not in need of either purchasing or selling any article to any other country. But India cannot afford to do so she is not self-sufficient, we have to purchase and we have to sell a large number of articles and so the question of doing all that through a clearing house is very important indeed. We cannot therefore keep away from the United Nations Bank in our own interest.

Now, Sir, the question of sterling balances is quite important in itself and it is a separate question. Whether this Bank is established or not and whether we join this Bank or not, the question of sterling balances remains in its present form. Although these two questions have been mixed together in view of the loan agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom yet from the point of view of the motion before the House these are two isolated problems, and they have no connection whatsoever. In our own interest and in order to carry on the trade with other countries we ought to take part in this particular Bank.

But before we give our final vote, we should consider how much will be our liability, whether there is any risk involved, whether the money which we deposit will bear interest or not and whether we can withdraw our money or not. These are the questions which people naturally ask and I am going to reply to those questions from the Articles of Association of the Bank.

The Bank has got one lakh shares of one lakh dollars each out of which we have got 400 shares of one lakh dollars each. They are demanding 20 per cent at present. We paid about 2 per cent. We were assured in the Committee by the Finance Member that the dollars required for this payment would be made available from the Empire Dollar Pool, the effect of which would be a corresponding reduction in the sterling balances. So the 2 per cent subscription which we have already paid came out of our sterling balances which according to some persons is our total loss. I do not think it is a loss at all. The remaining 3 per cent and later on 5 per cent will have to be paid in rupees and not in gold or in dollars.

The second point of safety is this. There will be a branch of the United Nations Bank in India itself so that all the money that we pay will remain in India so that the question of non-payment by the bank will not arise.

The third point of safeguard is that by giving one year's notice we can withdraw from the Bank. Therefore the apprehension which some people have got, that money might be given to small countries like Holland or Belgium who may not be able to pay back and there may be a loss is to a very large extent allayed by this provision. Besides I suggest that whenever loan is given to any country over and above its quota, some other country should give a guarantee for that and it should also put its signature on the loan agreement. We follow the same procedure in business, there should be some surety who will be responsible for paying the amount which cannot be recovered from the debtor. If the United Kingdom recommend that so much loan should be given to Belgium, they should be prepared to sign a document so that if that money cannot be recovered from Belgium it should be recovered from the United Kingdom. If this principle is adopted there is no chance of any loss whatever. Even if it is not adopted, we find that there is a provision according to which we can withdraw by giving one year's notice at any time. Our representatives on these organisations will no doubt have sufficient commonsense. If the amount is being given to certain countries and the money may not be returned, immediately they can come forward and say we now withdraw ourselves. And the moment the notice is given our responsibility for payment ends. So if the countersignature of the country is not available, the notice itself will safeguard our interest. So if your Governor and Director are wide awake—then you can safely trust your interests to such persons. India is not wanting in men. They have never had opportunities. When the opportunity comes, they will rise to the occasion. So the apprehensions of Mr. Mannu Subedar are not correct. The money will be safe.

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It is not a gift. It is a deposit in a regular bank. You invest the money and they give you the profit. It is provided that the profit, if any, will be distributed among the various persons. In Article 13(b) on page 50 you will find that "if two per cent is paid as a first charge, any balance remaining to be distributed shall be paid to all members in proportion to their shares." Your bank is like a co-operative bank. "Whatever profit there is, it will be shared by each country and payment to each member shall be made in his own currency and if that currency is not available, then in other currencies acceptable to the members. If such payments are made in currencies other than members own currency transfer of the currency and its use by the receiving member after payment shall be without restriction of the members."

Mr. P. B. Gole (Bihar Non-Muhammadan) Will there be any profit?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad If the banks have no profit all the banks in the world will be closed. They are not going to lend money to any country in charity. Whatever interest is received by the bank, after deducting two per cent it will be distributed among the shareholders. It is provided for in the article which I have quoted. One of the Branches will be in India and the money will be invested there. They are then sure to get the profit and if anything is going wrong and our representative cannot control it, then we give notice and take our money back and we will get every pice in our account. Therefore, this is an investment in the bank in order to facilitate our trade with other countries. I see no danger of any kind and without hesitation I would recommend honestly to every Member of the Assembly to support the motion moved by the Honourable the Finance Member.

In the end I appeal to all my colleagues. This subject has been under discussion for a considerable time. We had some hesitation in the beginning when we could not understand perhaps the hidden meaning. There may have been some justification for it. But now we can safely rely upon the present Government, and I am sure they are not going to make mistakes or take any action to the disadvantage of the country. Relying upon them I think it is absolutely safe. It is in the best interests of the country that we support the motion.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) I rise to support the motion made by my honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan.

Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadan) On a point of order. There is no such member in the House!

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee: I am sorry. I mean Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee. I do not presume that I am a financier or an economist. I speak as a layman and I want to put forward the views of a layman. Yesterday Mr. Manu Subedar spoke of passers-by in Connaught Circus and he said, why not ask the passer-by? I feel that I probably come under that category—the passer-by in Connaught Circus. But Connaught Circus is within ear-shot of this honourable and learned House. It might still be said that words of wisdom flowing from here have educated the passers-by in Connaught Circus in these financial matters to a considerable extent. Therefore I probably do not even come under that category. I feel I am like a passer-by in Chandni Chowk where the voices and the words of wisdom from this House do not reach, and that my level of intelligence on this account is perhaps that of a passer-by in Chandni Chowk where old methods of finance and old ideas still continue in contrast to the ideas of the more educated passers-by in Connaught Circus. As I have heard these learned discourses on high finance by Mr. Manu Subedar and latterly by my colleague, Dr. Zia Uddin, I felt that when people talk of high finance and of high mathematics which were enunciated at such length by my learned friend here, I fear the listeners get a sort of headache. I also feel that financiers do not enjoy life because when they are dabbling in finance they are probably like

people playing bridge at very high stakes. I think the financiers themselves get a headache, and that they do not enjoy the fruits of their labour, because a financier loses the capacity to use his money for the comfort of himself or of those who surround him. He is always thinking of the investment side—how he can best invest his money. Even while offering his drinks he is thinking as to whether the proper person has been given the right drink.

When I heard Mr. Manu Subodhar speaking I felt that he was to some extent uncomfortable. For it seemed if I may say, with all respect to the great financier, that he seems to be obsessed with one idea and that one idea ran throughout his discourse and that was the obsession of sterling balances. I do not say that I am competent to dilate on the sterling balances. But I was not able to understand—I may be very dense—from his discourse what the exact connection there is between the vexed question of sterling balances and the question before the House, namely whether India should continue its partnership of the International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction. If I understood him aright, he seems to me to have in his mind one dominant feeling, which he expressed again and again. He believes that before we join this bank we must get Great Britain or the United Kingdom to pay back our sterling balances. He feels that this should be a matter for bargain. We must tell the U. K. that if you give us that money or hold out reasonable hope of giving back our sterling balances, then we shall join this Bank and Fund; otherwise we shall keep out of them, this seems to be his position. I fully agree with him that every Indian is deeply concerned and should be deeply concerned about these sterling balances. This is our money, money which we can ill afford to lose. I do admire his concern over the sterling balances but I do not feel convinced that if we take this position, *viz.*, that we will only join this Bank and this Fund if England gives us back our sterling balances, we shall be doing any great good to ourselves. I have not understood how far England is interested in our refusal or otherwise. Will they really be willing to fork out or give back to us this money, to persuade us to join the Bank? Is England so far concerned about India joining this Bank and Fund that they will give back to us our sterling balances? Is the payment really dependent on our joining the Bank or is the U. K. holding out this as a bait so that we should join the Bank? That is a point on which Mr. Manu Subodhar has not been able to convince the passer-by in Chandni Chowk up to now.

I must therefore consider the question from other points of view. We ought to enquire whether our joining means our being eternally wedded or committed to the membership of this Bank and this Fund. Enough has been said and I do not want to reiterate the argument that it does not mean an unlimited commitment. The fact is we can go out of it or to use the current political phrase, we can opt out of it at a month's notice and therefore that in itself is not a great danger.

The second point that would appeal to an ordinary layman, the average man who has to invest a few hundred rupees, I mean people like me, is are we fully represented on the permanent organisations of this Bank and this Fund. I take it that we have one of our most brilliant banking men as one of the Governors. I also take it that there are on the Directorate some distinguished nationals as our representatives. One of them is Mr. Sundaresan, who came to this House for the Budget Session last time. Therefore it seems to me that our interests are being constantly watched by our nationals who are not taking instructions from what was described as a foreign government but who are our agents and who take instructions from our Finance Member here and from the Government of which he is a distinguished member. Therefore our interests are being continually watched and that is the main point which I want to make.

The next thing that appeals to me probably more than any other thing (because finance does not interest me and I receive no dividends nor hold any

[Lt-Col Dr J C Chatterjee] shares) is the wider implication of this proposal *viz*, whether we should follow the policy of isolation or whether we are to conform to the policy of all advanced nations, that we should participate and make our contribution to anything that concerns the welfare of the commonwealth of the nations of this world. That is the point which I wish to put before you and it is very largely because of this aspect that I support the motion of my Honourable friend.

Mr. President. It is time now for the House to rise for lunch. The Honourable Member may resume his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Sir, when we adjourned for lunch, I was referring to what I consider is the most important reason and argument in favour of India's participation in these two international organisations. I refer to the question which is fundamental to the proposition before us namely, whether we are to adhere to a policy of isolationism or whether we are as a great nation great not only in the number of our nationals but also in the ancient heritage of our civilisation and the potential vigour of a new India, to take our place in the commonwealth of nations and our rightful share therein, or whether we are to adhere a policy of isolationism. In the old days, before people from the West began to come here, geographical conditions and the lack of the means of travel prevented India from being known or taking any part in international affairs. We were then known to the world as the mysterious land and a mysterious people, the land of Ind might have been considered the land of romance but it was not known to be a power. At the same time we were known as the land of gold and the land of spices, even Columbus wanted to find us out and discover this mysterious land of Ind because he wanted our gold and our spices. Then came the age when the European nations developed their maritime skill and began to send out expeditions to this mysterious land of gold and of incense and of spices. As a result followed the European domination over this country. Whereas our isolation in the pre-European days was the result of geographical conditions and the lack of facilities for travel which then hindered the meeting of nations, a different isolation was imposed upon us because of our political subjection. If in the old days when we had not been conquered by a foreign nation we were known as the land of wealth and of romance and of sweet-smelling spices, we then became gradually known to the world as a land inhabited by dusky colonials who were a mysterious kind of people, half-clad, and uneducated, who put their women behind bars and who were in constant dread of elephants, tigers, snakes and pestilence. That isolation was imposed upon us because of our political subjection, and I venture to quote from my personal experience to show how this inferior status by which we had become known in the eyes of other civilised free nations became an obsession with many young people and how it entered into our souls to feel that if we went outside our country we were treated with disrespect and discriminated against. I remember that in the days of my early youth I undertook a world tour with my wife. From the days that we embarked from Bombay until we came back one of the saddest impressions in our minds was caused by the manner that we were treated in because we were Indians, not only by shipping companies but by customs officials and by the police of the countries. Wherever we arrived—we were detained till the last when passport facilities had to be looked into and our baggage was searched with great care lest we bring the spices of India and the mysterious wealth of India hidden in our trunks. As the result of this the iron entered into an soul. We had the most pleasant recollections of our visit and what we saw, although it is 30 years ago but we can never forget that one feeling namely the feeling

of humiliation that we being the nationals of a country which was unknown outside India except as the vassal of another nation, and, as I said, a land inhabited by dusky colonials and by people considered to be semi-civilised—we must be inferior to the people of other countries. I remember that preceeding on that voyage we got on from China on to a ship which was going to America and there my wife who wore the national costume of our country was besieged by American ladies who came and held out their hands and said "Please tell us our fortunes." My wife asked why they thought she could tell their fortunes and they said "We thought that all Indian women were fortune tellers." I am sorry to say that my wife was very upset that all that she could be taken for was a fortune teller. These are just instances to show what this policy of isolationism has cost us, and today the main question before us is whether we should join these two most important international organisations or whether we should remain isolated and build a wall round us and say that we are quite happy in our own land and we shall have nothing to do with other people and therefore we shall keep out of all these things because we consider or look upon them with suspicion. Are we to be always afraid that we could not be properly treated or are we to be timid and go in and take our rightful place in these and other international organisations of the greatest importance?

Now, Sir, I feel that the main question, so far as the present government is concerned, has been decided conclusively. The fact that the Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has taken upon himself the duties of the Member for External Affairs shows what great importance he attaches to the question of external affairs. In passing one can say what better choice could there have been than of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to guide the external policy of this government? And what better man could have been chosen to be the channel for the relations between India and other foreign countries? For, I take it that next to Mahatma Gandhi, he is the one international figure from India, recognised and honoured all over the world as a great statesman, as a writer and speaker and as a man of talent. Therefore I say that by that choice the present government have set their seal of approval on this question of the external relations of this country and they have therefore pledged that we shall take our place in the international assemblies of this world. We shall sit there and we shall show to the world what our people, our statesmen and our representatives and our financiers are capable of doing.

It seems to me that those who are afraid of joining these international organisations are suspicious because of our experience in the past. It will be remembered that after the last war a great international organisation with great hopes was set up, namely, the League of Nations and India also became a member of that League. I remember at that time a union in India was formed to popularise the aims of the League and to interest people in the work of the League which was manifestly the preservation of peace among nations and the prevention of wars. I happen to be the first Honorary Secretary of the League of Nations Union in India. For a while I was most enthusiastic but as time went on I felt that the League of Nations was of very little value so far as India was concerned. Apart from the fact that the League itself was breaking up and was not being taken seriously except by the few great powers I felt that the money that we contributed towards the upkeep of the League did not bring in a result commensurate with the amount which we paid as a large country and I resigned my office by way of protest against the way in which India was being treated. Conditions then were very difficult as India even when it sent delegations to the League of Nations or its various allied organisations, whether they were labour organisations or health organisations, those delegations were not chosen by the people of this country but they were entirely and completely nominated by the Government of the time and in fact such delegations were almost always headed by nationals of England and not nationals of India, though they might have been serving the Government of India. Therefore at that time our suspicions and our fears in joining these international organisations

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were certainly justifiable. Even last year when a delegation was sent from here to such a politically innocuous or harmless body, or shall we say, enlightened body as the Educational and Cultural conference of nations, the delegation from India was headed by an Englishman, because he has an officer of the Government of India. It was surprising that the education and culture of India was to be represented mainly by an Englishman, thereby to some extent letting other people gather the impression that India was half educated and could not produce an educationist who could lead an educational delegation, leave alone financial political and labour delegations which went from this country. So, I admit that such fears were justifiable then but now with the coming in of a national government the whole situation has changed. I hope, Sir—in fact it is not a hope but a certainty that at no future time would a delegation from India either to these banks or to any other international organisation be headed by or even composed of Englishmen or any others except nationals of this country. That is one of the main arguments why I consider that we should go into this organisation.

To the most important international conference, namely the U N O, our delegation is not only composed entirely of Indian nationals but be it said to the pride of India that out of the 51 national delegations, our delegation is headed by a most talented and charming lady, namely, the Honourable Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit. How can we measure in terms of money the impression that she has made, because the value of her work is immeasurable. She has by her speech raised the whole international status of India. I shall just quote one or two sentences from what she said. She said "We seek no domination over others. We claim no privileged position for our people but we do claim equal and honourable treatment for our people wherever they may go and we cannot accept any discrimination against us."

Those words form the gist of all that I have to urge, namely, that whereas we do not claim domination over others we do desire with all the earnestness at our command and with all the strength that we can muster that our nationals should be treated honourably and that there should be no discrimination against them. That discrimination was shown to us because we were isolated and unknown in the international affairs of the world. Our nationals felt dishonoured and hurt when they went outside this country. In their own country there was discrimination against them. Outside their country there was discrimination against them. Now, Sir, this talented lady by the impression she has made has shown to the people of the world that Indian women are not merely fortune tellers but they are also guides and determiners of the affairs of their own nation and also of international affairs and thereby she has raised the status of this country and particularly the status of our womanhood.

My next point is—that the membership of an organisation like the International Monetary Fund and Bank gives to our men a great opportunity for proving their worth in the councils of nations. Up to now the great difficulty has been that wherever our nationals have gone, a large section of the people of our country have said that they are only nominees of the British Government. Even when we sent such able men as Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, there have been a great number of people who said that they represented nobody in this country but were nominees of a foreign power. That was said firstly because of the political domination over this country secondly because they had not the support of their own countrymen. (*An Honourable Member* His Master's Voice!) That may be but the future delegations will not be of that type. Our men have so far not got a chance to prove their ability and their worth, their power of speech, their knowledge, their talent and their civilisation to prove that their brains are equal to the best brains that other countries can produce.

Now, Sir, we have sent men like Sri Chintaman Deshmukh and others to serve on the organisations connected with this bank and I am told by those who have recently come from America that these men have already made then mark and that they are acknowledged as some of the best financial brains of the world. I referred to the talented lady who leads our delegation to the U.N.O. I could name others and the fact remains that whenever we have sent such men and women to represent our country among other nations of the world they have brought honour and credit to this country and I am sure they will continue to do so. And if they bring honour and credit to themselves, they will bring credit to the nation from which they spring and whose representatives they are, and, therefore, they will raise the international status of India, which, I consider, is today our great need. The world cannot any longer be isolated. With such fast means of travel, with free trade, with the mixing of nations, we cannot remain isolated in our own home. But when we go out we must be respected and we can only be respected by the achievements of our men and women whom we send out. If, therefore, today we say that we will not go into this Bank or that we will not go into similar organisations or that we will not send Delegations to International Conferences we are thereby depriving our people of finding their place not only within the narrow limits of India but as International statesmen, as International financiers, as International men of culture and so on and so forth.

Finally, Sir, I shall wind up by saying that I have supported this motion, as I have said, from the layman's point of view. I have done so, firstly, because I consider that we are not irrevocably bound to remain members and that we can opt out at any time, secondly, because we have sufficient and adequate representation on the Executive and the Directorate of this Fund and of this Bank, and, thirdly, that we have by our participation given an opportunity to our nationals to show their worth and in this manner we shall be able to prove to the world that our country can produce able financiers. Till yesterday it was urged that no Indian could become or was fit to undertake the responsibilities of so important a portfolio as the Finance Department. Today we have seen that my Honourable friend Mr. Ishaq Ali Khan is able and is well-able to undertake that most onerous and responsible task. And though it is yet early to say anything very much, he has our very best wishes and also our certain belief that he will rise to the full height of the great responsibility which he has undertaken. Fourthly, Sir, I feel that because of our own interests, in international trade we must join this Bank. India must trade, we cannot live without trade. We are not like Russia which is self-sufficient and which does not need any outside connection. We have to establish our place among the nations. We have got to develop International trade, which is still in its infancy and therefore I support the motion made by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban), Mr. President, Sir, I am grateful to the Honourable the Finance Member for having allowed us freedom to speak on this resolution on its merits. I also appreciate the fact that within the limit of the 30 hours granted to him to understand and appreciate all aspects of this problem, he has achieved something which is remarkable. I wish the Government had not hurried through this matter and the Honourable the Finance Member's colleagues had given him more time. Had he been given that time, I feel certain that the Government as well as the House would not have hurried itself into this International Bank and International Fund, which I am only too sorry to say, compels me to sound a discordant note in a House which has begun in an atmosphere which is welcome to all of us. The most surprising fact to me was that a signatory of the Bombay Plan has also supported the idea of this "Bretton Woods Nonsense", as I call it. We were told that we would require millions and crores upon crores of rupees for the industrialisation of this country and yet we are being asked to throw away not 123 crores but 266

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crores into a pit from which we may not get back a single rupee. Sir, Honourable Members in this House will perhaps remember the Fiasco of international debts and credits after the last war. There was a Bank of International Settlements. I am told it exists still. But every member of it defaulted, including Great Britain. There is a fear of a new war in the atmosphere in spite of the many contradictory statements made from Washington, London and even Moscow. We know from our experience how wars are manufactured and I am certain that the new war will not take even the normal generation to which Europe has made us accustomed. I am surprised and I am a bit upset at the fact that the two great economists, who gave us dissertations on the pure economics of the International Fund and the Bank yesterday, have left me puzzled. I could not decide whether they wanted us to join the Bretton Woods Affair or the net result of their speeches was that we have tried what we wanted to say but please do not join the thing. The Committee met on three occasions and the last report of it is the most difficult to understand. They have discussed the three aspects of the problem. Two they have rejected and on the third they tell us: "We have not got a mind of our own. Please discuss and settle the matter in the Assembly." All this leads me to the view that we should give the widest possible berth to this Anglo-American co-operative group called the International Fund and the International Fund. Let us understand India taking an interest in International affairs and going out to the help of devastated regions. Had the Honourable the Finance Member told us that we are going to give away so much without an idea of getting back a single penny, in spite of my poverty and in spite of my hunger, I would have said "Go ahead." Against your wishes you were forced to join the campaign of devastation. Now get back your soul and assist reconstruction and rehabilitation. Let millions die of starvation here but go back and regain your soul." But that does not seem to be the object. Not one single advantage has been explained by the Government as to why we should join it. The best explanation given was that we can always get out. Why the Dickens, then, should we enter it?

Let us give this two per cent, three per cent or five per cent, but let us forget that we have given it. We were told, charity should begin at home and then the Honourable the Finance Minister went into statistics much more powerful than the Honourable Member who preceded me about internationalism. Sir, internationalism, to-day, after the war, is the biggest ramp existing in the world. The three Big, the Big Four, rather the whole lot of them, satellites

and otherwise, have no mercy for Asia, Africa and the suppressed nations of the world. I want the Honourable the Finance Member to look at the problem from my point of view also. It is the easiest thing to understand that if Brother Roosevelt got China, Brother Churchill got India. We have heard headlines about the change that has come about in this House. I appreciate and to an old campaigner like me Indian faces on the Government Benches are very welcome, but we are not even on the verge of the millennium yet. This Government led by and supported by my countrymen is still His Majesty's Government in India. Sir, we are still tied to the apron strings of Mother Britannia and if I have understood the situation well, we are not going to be free until certain aspects of our political problem have been settled according to the wishes of Great Britain. Knowing that, I would like the Honourable the Finance Minister to look at the Anglo-American debt agreement. India is the largest market for Great Britain and Great Britain after 1951, for 49 years has to pay capital and interest to America under that loan agreement. I should like the Honourable the Finance Minister to investigate whether the "as soon as possible" theory of his expectation of the Treasury in London or with His Majesty's Government in London is likely to materialise before the 49 years are over. America has decided that the American debt will have priority over other debts of Great Britain. Shall we be allowed to have a look in into our sterling balances? I can understand India being represented at

international meetings and organisations, but I feel certain that so long as the millennium has not come, so long as we have not prepared a constitution which I expect we are going to sit and discuss and so long as we have not signed the treaty of commerce brought to India by the three Cabinet Ministers, according to the wishes of Great Britain, so long will this question of our sterling balances suspended and unsettled. I am not quite sure if the Honourable the Finance Minister has been shown that document. It may be that because we have accepted the bastard hybrid of the Cabinet Mission to rule our destinies for some time to come, that document has perhaps gone back to London. The 'as soon as possible' theory of the Honourable the Finance Minister is to be taken either according to the 49 years of the Anglo-American loan agreement or according to the Commander-in-Chief's statement in the Upper House last session that the Indianisation of the army is likely to take twenty-five years, or it may be that the constitution making body will be in being, not for one year not for two years, but according to the established system of our Government, and by that I mean those who have ruled us so far, the decennial period is likely to be there until we have arrived at any decision about our future. Until then in international meetings and organisations until then in every other body whether the Bank or the Fund, India will have to play the second fiddle. When the Brittonwoods discussions were going on the Secretary to the American Treasury declined to allow India—India with its 400 millions of people India a creditor nation of Great Britain to the extent of £1,300 which amount I am told has now risen to £1,700 the country to which America also had to pay some money, that country was not allowed to get in because Mr. Morgenthau said that if India was to be there, Great Britain would have two votes. In the later stage of the discussions, India appeared to be satisfied with a seat which Russia did not take. I am told that the gracious Anglo-American bloc has now agreed that India should have a permanent seat on the Board of Directors. I hope it will endure but I am very doubtful if when Russia decides to come in, we shall not be shown the door. My own feeling is that India with its 400 millions of people and its monopolies in certain raw materials is one of the largest markets of the world. Need we rush into this international Bank and International Fund when I feel absolutely confident in my mind that America, Great Britain and the whole lot of them will come to us. They cannot exist without us. They want to sell their goods to us. Need we then throw away our money, throw away even the possible chance of getting our sterling balances, for the mere pleasure of going and shaking hands with international gentlemen who are very small compared with us. May I give you, Sir, an example from my own experience. In a non-official body the International Business Conference, which I had the honour to attend as a delegate divided itself into eight sections. Nicaragua, little Holland and some other countries like Lithuania and others were given chairmanships of some of these sections, but two countries one with 500 millions of people and the other with 100 million inhabitants and the largest markets in the world—I mean China and India—were not given a single chairmanship in any of the eight sections of that conference. That attitude, in spite of the change that has come over this Assembly, will continue. And therefore Sir even if the Government of India to-day has decided to rush into this matter may I suggest that caution is indicated? We may withdraw but we shall withdraw after a terrible loss—loss in prestige loss in money. An argument was heard yesterday that our sterling balances have nothing to do with our joining the International Fund and the International Bank. I do not subscribe to that view. Great Britain has come to terms with America and mighty Great Britain will pay no interest till 1951. India has not yet been told whether she will get any interest on the colossal sums taken away from this country. We heard during the last session that the predecessor of the present Finance Minister was in telegraphic communication with His Majesty's Government and that a delegation was likely to come and talk matters over with us. It is here that I should like to see the policy of vigour and forcefulness described by the Honourable the Finance Minister. Suppose they decline to talk to us, have we got any lever to catch hold of them. They will go on, they will

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talk of international difficulties, they will talk of the thousand and one things that interfere with the normal progress of affairs, and thus they will keep us hanging, and whether our credits are scaled down or whether the Churchillian proposition of their total abolition is accepted even if we do not get our sterling balances I would most humbly advise the present Finance Minister not to throw good money after bad. Whether we shall get our sterling balances or even a portion of them is a matter which cannot be discussed to-day. I hope the new Executive Council of the Governor-General will be able to induce London at least to talk to us. I know there is a noose round the neck of India, that noose has been tightened once or twice before, if you do not do this you will be hanged by the neck till you be dead on the 10th December or the 15th December. And now we are faced with this wretched 25th November, if by that date we do not do a certain thing we shall be kicked out of the organisation. I hope we are, for I am convinced in my own mind that this is not going to do us any good. Not one benefit or advantage has been described as to why we should go into this International Bank and Fund. Withdrawal alone is not satisfactory, and therefore I should like to impress upon the Honourable the Finance Member not to push India into this dangerous pit unless and until we know how and where we stand in regard to our own money. We listened to two dissertations on the purely economic aspect of the position of this country. I have tried to add some commercial, industrial and political aspects to that economic statement of policy. We heard of the par value of the rupee, we heard of inflation, we heard that we would have to pay a hundred rupees for gold where others would pay fifty, we also heard of exchange and convertibility. From every point of view and from every angle of vision we have been badly surrounded, and the 25th November is going to be something like the dates fixed for the Nuremberg hangings. Sir, let us forget this international business altogether. India, when it comes into the international world as India will be respected and will be listened to to-day we are not what we are trying to make ourselves to be. By and by we might succeed. I hope the change will come in my lifetime but the chances are that it is going to take longer than we imagine to-day. Every pie has to be garnered and taken care of, and because we are going to be allowed to sit near a Byrnes or near a Bevin we should not go into ecstasies over our being raised to mighty big positions. I am hoping that like Washington Delhi some day will be the centre of these international gatherings. But it is not yet. Let the Government of India in its present garb realise that it is not the Government of the Indian people. Let it realise that all the old methods of warfare have yet to be continued, let us not be dragged into problems and affairs which are not yet ours. Indian trade, Indian commerce, Indian industries will advance in spite of what we have been told. And therefore Sir, although my voice is a bit discordant I hope the Government of India to-day, and particularly the Honourable the Finance Minister will not forget that aspect of the matter which I have tried to place before him and the House. We are not going to get any interest on the amounts we are likely to advance. May I tell you Sir, that the haec of international debts and the Kellogg Pact and the one thousand and one aspects of international indebtedness and its repudiations leave me cold. I am not interested in the status India is likely to get according to the Honourable the Vice-Chancellor of Agra University. I would rather be where I am, save my money and give it to my hungry brothers and raise the standard of living of the men and women of this country whose agony built the Sterling Debts, without paying the slightest regard to how X shook hands with the President of America and Y was invited to the garden party at Buckingham Palace. Let us start on the new road to-day and let us for once declare our will that so long as you are not prepared to play the game by us we refuse to shake hands with you.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have listened with very great attention to the lurid picture that has been presented both by the Honourable Member who spoke just before me and also my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar who practically started the attack though he said now that there is

a change of Government he is prepared to entrust this matter and not oppose this motion. I was also sorry to note that my Honourable friend from the other side, who is a member of the Government, Dr John Matthai was equally apologetic in his support for this motion. When he supported this motion he said that there were great dangers which had to be guarded against. The Honourable the mover said that in as much as he has experience of only 50 hours he was personally in favour of this motion but he would leave it to the Assembly to judge the motion on its merits, and so we stand.

Now, Sir, I was a member of this Committee and to the best of my lights I thought that it was in our interest and in the interest of India to continue our membership to the Monetary Fund and to the Bank. Though at the very outset when the Resolution was passed in February last I was opposed to this inasmuch as I was under the impression that the Viceroy and the Governor-General need not have pushed India into this Organisation as a member without consulting this Assembly and over its head. We have had sufficient time to think over this subject calmly and coolly. Now my desire is to place certain facts before this Assembly so that all members may come to their own conclusion independently of all political and other considerations. It is a very serious matter.

Now, Sir, I will address myself purely to the economic aspect of our membership in this Monetary Fund and Bank. Let us recollect, let not memories be short. After world war No. 1 what happened to the economic life in the world? For some time till 1929 it appeared that there was boom in trade and the peak was reached in 1929. Thereafter there was a slump and that slump came in trade and there was a crash. Almost every country devalued its currency to keep up its export trade, and ultimately England went off the gold standard. All thus the Honourable Members must take note of. Thereafter Germany did not allow its currency to be taken out, controls were introduced, currencies were managed, and there was an exchange war. The wars—both world war No. 1 and world war No. 2—that have been fought were not political wars, they were not wars of aggression, but wars which started in economics, they were purely economic wars. Let us therefore not make the same mistake which has been made already. The Honourable Dr John Matthai said we do not know what will happen after this war, whether the same slump might not come in after this war also in which case what are we to do? Are we not to come to some arrangement amongst ourselves to avoid another great war which may come in after that slump. Each country might like to devalue its own currency and various other devices may be started. Are we not to guard against another tragedy? Should we not avoid one mistake after another? If in spite of all these arrangements a political war comes in, possibly we may not be able to help it, and therefore, let us not get away from this institution which is, to my mind, very useful. My Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar said are we not to follow the United Kingdom which did not want to get into this organisation. I ask him with all his experience whether we are in the same position as the United Kingdom. Why did the United Kingdom try to keep out of this? It is exactly because it did not want to subordinate its sterling which was ruling, he did not want to play the second role, he did not want to get subordinated economically to the United States of America, but still it wanted to keep up appearances. It wanted to have advantages also—Empire did not go. India is not the head of the Empire, we have none. In the Empire sterling still rules. Therefore England had already carved for itself a number of countries where sterling can rule though it has become dead, it is practically a bloc currency today. Dollar is ruling today but still England was pushing up the value of sterling in order to keep it artificially alive. Is our rupee valued anywhere else in the world? Are we not tied to the chariot-wheel of England by this unfortunate linking between the sterling and the rupee? The sterling is dead, the rupee is 40 hundred times. Are we to continue that tragedy? Therefore is there any analogy between the United Kingdom and ourselves. France also has its own bloc, she wanted to push its franc to Algiers so that its currency might flourish. Are we in that position? We have

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no ambitions, we have no spirit of aggression, we will be left all along in the cold. It is not because that England did not want to join that we should not join. On the other hand if we have been following the course of events, we must say that if England did not want to join we must join, but if England joins we must get out. We have been slaves. It is good for England, we have to think a hundred times before we join this institution. Therefore it is a simple test. If England did not join, I would unhesitatingly without any facts and figures join this institution. Then it is said Russia did not join. Do you know the political position of Russia? It wants to swallow up the Balkans, if it has not done so already. It wants India in turn. Both of us are inviting Russia. If we don't do, we can keep the wolf away from our door for some time. Therefore Russia has its own designs over the rest of the world, we are not in that happy or unhappy position. Therefore can we stand all alone? The other countries may come in sooner or later, but we shall be left alone.

My Honorable friends are terribly afraid of sinking 800 million dollars. Where are we sinking? It is a myth. We are unnecessarily deceiving ourselves. Let us have the monetary fund. The entire fund is about 8,000 million dollars. Our contribution is 400 million dollars. Are we asked to pay away all this money in gold? No, 25 per cent in dollars or 10 per cent in gold. 10 per cent will be our holdings and the money will be with us so far as the monetary fund is concerned. The balance of 75 per cent has to be kept in our own currency in our own Reserve Bank. Whenever we want money through ordinary channels, we will draw upon this currency. Is it a bad thing? There is one other institution where when we are not able to get hard currencies—take Switzerland or the U.S.A. for instance—we can draw upon this. Far from being disadvantageous, it is certainly advantageous. My Honorable friend Mr. Siddiqui was anxious for the day when India will be the seat of International institutions, but may I tell him that if you don't join the institution first of all you will be all alone. He will be a lone procession going singly. Even when he gets his desire fulfilled he wants all the other countries to come to his country. Then should we not go in advance to other countries? Let us therefore say it when the time is ripe. We can enter into this monetary fund with an absolutely clear conscience. Not a single pie will go out, on the other hand we have everything to gain.

Let us now come to the International Bank. Here out of 400 millions we have to contribute by way of shares in a total share capital of 9,100 million dollars. What is our percentage? 4.5. And what are we to pay? 2 per cent in gold and 18 per cent in our own currency—in rupees. The balance of 80 per cent is not called today. The balance will be called when all the investments of this Bank in foreign countries fail. Then there will be a call. The U.S.A. has subscribed 3,150 million dollars. Our subscription is 400 million. England 1,350 million dollars, another country 1,200 million dollars, China 550 million dollars, France 450 million dollars. I have got a complaint. Far from putting me as the sixth on the list when I could have given 500 million dollars or 100 million more. I would have ranked the fifth.

Why did those people put me as the sixth when I am ten times as big as France. France today is a poverty. France is a power which has gone down. Far from counselling instead of trying to put up our strength for getting the fifth share we are out of this institution? Is the whole world going to crash? Let these poor countries which have been devastated by war get some loans. It is not said in the Articles of Association that we are not entitled to aid. We are equally suffering. Isn't it common knowledge that even in the Reparations Conference at Paris we have had some reparations. It was no doubt said that we were not directly devastated by war. There has been no invasion except in a corner of India. All the same all the inconveniences which any country has suffered we have suffered. We have had famine and pestilence and more have died by them than in all the fronts in the war. It is stated in the Articles of Association and in the preamble that

even countries like ours can draw upon this Bank for their purposes by way of loans. Isn't it a proper and good institution?

Therefore, Sir, so far as the financial implications are concerned, with a clean heart we can get into this. I do not expect that all the 400 millions which we are going to contribute will be lost. Will the United States cut our noses to spite their faces? Is it merely to bring about the ruin of this country that they are going to destroy their entire bank? I shall myself go to the United States and beg of them to give the money as a piece of charity!

Every man should have the right and privilege to contribute. I do not know who was the author of the saying that charity begins at home. How can you call it charity if it begins at home? It is selfishness. To say during this famine and pestilence I fed my children and they grew fat. That is not charity. Charity is what you do abroad. I, as a true Indian, born of the eastern culture, born with traditions both of Jesus and Mohammed the Prophet and of the ancients of this country, cannot subscribe to this. It is all to the unfortunate materialistic West. It is not for me, a spiritually minded Indian. I am prepared to say that charity does not begin with me. It begins in my House. If it does not, it has to begin at another man's house. Shall I invert it and say that my charity begins with Mr. Manu Subedar's property? It is scandalous. Therefore, even if it is a piece of charity, let us leave it at that.

These two institutions have come to say. We have already committed ourselves. It is true we were appointed to give advice to the Assembly. We felt that it was a task that the Assembly itself, having regard to the controversies, could settle. If three short men like myself came to any decision, in spite of the views of the experts, they would put us down for persons who could not carry weight. We did send a Governor, then a Director and at the third stage we recommended that two per cent gold might be given. Therefore, there is no doubt as regards our attitude. The majority of those people who sat in this Committee were wholeheartedly for the continuance of membership.

Let us come to one or two points raised by my Honorable friends. True it is that the par value of exchange has to be fixed. Nobody denies it. The par value of our currency has to be fixed in relation to our own ruling prices only. Unfortunately sufficient steps have not been taken by the previous Government to put up these prices. In their own countries they did not allow the prices to soar up so heavily. Is there anything to declare what our power is? They have given notice to us and we have time for two or three months, to say that we want this par to decide in accord with its prevailing rate on the 1st July or some other date. We want an account of the peculiar circumstances to settle the power of the particular rate. Even if we settled it down ten times above that, we can fix it on our own responsibility subject only to notification to the Fund management and thereafter pay the ten per cent. Those are the limits within which we can proceed. If I am all alone in this Assembly I may have a gun and shoot. But there is no one to die. I am not alone in the world. Two persons can play the same game. If I devalue my currency, others can do the same. If the currency is in my own country, instead of it I can have churries or trunkets. That is the trouble. If I monkey with my currency, isn't it open to them to monkey with theirs?

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: They did so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: True. But let us come together. Let us decrease or increase simultaneously. Let not each kick at the other. Let not nations quarrel. Is this an institution of which we should shudder and kick at and withdraw from? I am rather sorry that my Honourable friends who know much better and who dealt with such policies much before me should take this line. They have allowed their judgment to be clouded by other issues which are not germane to this point.

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The next issue is the much vexed question of the sterling balance. It is true that at an early stage during the last Assembly I said they are not sterling balances. Having regard to the numerous papers that were proclaiming in England and other countries, those gentlemen were anxious to scale down. I said sterling balances are likely to become scuttling balances. Ultimately the balances might disappear. Have you not heard of Germans scuttling their ships? Likewise we were afraid of the sterling balances and having regard to the conflagration in the English papers, we honestly felt that they would scuttle down. They may reduce these balances. But we have a Government of our own. Within a period of 5 years they borrowed to the extent of Rs. 1,700 crores of articles. Today they owe us. It is all distress property from us. We did not give it willingly. It was for a war in which we were all interested. We did not want the Japanese to come here.

My honourable friend has been referring to debtors and creditors. He must be a creditor and therefore does not know the difficulties of a debtor. I know today my creditor comes to my house. The tables have been turned. In our parts nobody pays his debts. As soon as the Congress Government came to office, they thought that it was an Atlantic Charter for every debtor, that he need not pay his debts. Where are we? Are we still in the moon to think that the debtor will come to our doors to pay his debts. It is all moonshine. The creditor will no doubt keep quiet. What are we to do? Raise a huge army consisting of me who is above 50 and my friend Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed in his Colonel's uniform and expect both of us to go and shoot? What is it that can be done except by negotiations? We are a Government here. If it is the case of an individual we may arrest that man. We can attach his property and that is all that we can do with a private individual.

I will ask another question of my Honourable friend. I may be talking in ignorance, not having studied as much as my friends. We will assume that somehow by a stroke the English Government, the Socialist Government that it is, is ashamed of the manner in which we have been attacking them and they say that they will borrow, beg or steal and pay us this 1,700 million. Supposing they say "Take away all our plant and machinery, all our textile goods." What then is the position. The next day our currency which is now to the tune of 1,300 and odd crores, on account of which we are complaining, will get reduced to one rupee. Do you want the currency to be reduced in this country suddenly. Currency rose in this country steadily and rose from 200 crores before the war to 1,300 crores after the war. Are we to invite a steep fall in our currency?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa Muhammadan) What is the backing of the present currency?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sterling. Yes, it is sterling, whether you like it or not. It means that it can be discharged by goods, whenever it is possible for them to do so. Assume that by one stroke of the pen that they pay it out of the 3,750 millions that they have borrowed from America or they go to America for another, 1,700 million and pay into the pockets of my friend Mr. Manu Subedar tomorrow. If they do, what will happen?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore non-Muhammadan Rural) Define the rupee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am coming to that. I may assure this House that if it is done, it will be to our disadvantage. Let our experts sit together and find out what will be the bearable limit of our currency. Can we go back to the pre-war 200 crores? No. With all confidence I may assure this House and even the experts on this subject that we can never go back to the pre-war period. It will be at least reduced to 600 crores or something about that. The balance we will have to get. We will get it. I do want all that to be given away immediately, but that should be some sort of negotiation.

Let my friends with all the strength of the National Government behind them go and fight. I am only against bringing this subject again and again as if it were an insuperable obstacle in the way of our mixing up with the rest of the world for various good purposes.

Now let me come to delinking. You are merely talking what our friends have said but there is no positive aspect of it which is advantageous to this country. One advantage of the present position is that I will get rid of the yoke of Britain so far as the economic field is concerned. Tomorrow sections 40 and 42 of the Reserve Bank Act must be repealed on account of which this 1,300 million sterling has accumulated.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sections 40 and 41

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am a little in advance of that. How has it been forced on us? Under those sections it is obligatory for us in India, for the Reserve Bank, to honour any sterling paper that is given to us. For sterling the ratio has been fixed long ago. Though controversy and battle royal have raged over the ratio, it still continues as it is. So if some sterling paper is presented the Reserve Bank of India must go on printing notes in the Nasik Security Printing Press, though we could have easily said "I am not going to honour your sterling paper, and I am not bound to do it. Pay us in dollars or in gold or give me your Midland Railway Company or some Hotel Cecil in satisfaction of my claims in your country." I am not imagining all this. It has been suggested that just as the Englishman has property in this country why not we also have property in his country? I can imagine some of my friends riding a coach and pair in England and be the Managers of some Midland Railway Company. Let us satisfy our imagination. The difficulty was that under those sections of the Reserve Bank of India Act we were obliged to honour their sterling and pay rupees in exchange. We could have easily told them that their sterling paper is valueless in our country. We have no need for your sterling paper and it is so much waste-paper. Pay down in gold, textile machinery or some other machinery, in aeroplanes or motor cars or in some other goods. We were not entitled to say so today. Is it not economic slavery? We were tied down to the chariot wheels of England. That is what has made us to try to cut ourselves adrift. We must snatch at this opportunity. What is the position today? You can enter into any multilateral arrangement. Are we to sink or swim with England. England is today a second rate power. Tomorrow I would bring an amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act and say that sterling need not be honoured, rupees need not be paid in exchange and therefore we are not going to pay it.

Let me address myself to the facts and figures. My Honourable friend committed, I am afraid, some mistakes with respect to the figures. Let us not accumulate sterling any more. What is immediately important are the figures relating to the U.K. The balance of trade in our favour is as follows. In 1938 the imports from the U.K. were 48 crores, exports to the U.K. 55 crores. We had a balance of 7 crores in our favour. In 1943 imports were 25 crores and exports 54 crores and we had a favourable balance of 29 crores. In 1944 we imported 38 crores and exported 65 crores and our balance was 27 crores and in 1945 the imports were 50 crores and exports 64 crores and we have still a balance of 14 crores. It is increasing. Is it not necessary now to say Stop? We may say "I do not want your sterling. I won't allow you to accumulate this. Liquidate your debts whether by instalments or otherwise. Pay us in gold or something else. How long are we to continue this burden?" Under the Reserve Bank of India Act, however clever Sir Chintaman Deshmukh might be, in the face of Sections 40 and 41, he is bound to receive sterling and pay in rupee. In one breath we say that Sir Chintaman is so good and what is Sir Chintaman's advice. It is unfortunate that he is not here to advise us. I am glad that encomium has been paid to that eminent economist. He did advise us not only to do this but we have also gathered some experience after six months cogitating. He tried his best. I am not merely imagining. You will see that we say in the interim reports that to

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the best of our ability we must go on asking for time. In my own way I am an expert—I have specialised as a lawyer in the matter of taking adjournments and we know how to get them—it pleases both the clients and ourselves. Therefore we tried to delay this agreement and asked Sir Chintaman Deshmukh to go on asking for time until it came to breaking point and he said that consistent with our self-respect it is not desirable to ask for time any more. We would be put down as defaulters, and nothing is so bad in the world as a bank or nation to be called a defaulter in the matter of giving 400 million dollars. We had come to the end of the tether and with all his capacity and ingenuity he was not in a position, without the aid of this Assembly and without this international monetary fund to deal with this sterling, he wants that this amendment of the Reserve Bank Act should be taken up emergently. Not only he but my honourable friend's predecessor, Sir Archibald Rowlands, himself said in the note that he circulated that the moment we enter into the monetary fund the one advantage we gain is this, dealing with the sterling. In the days of Pandit Motilal Nehru the battle of the ratio was fought and the ratio is still a vexed question. Therefore is it not right that we do this? More than political independence, I feel free the day when the Reserve Bank Act sections 40 and 41 will be deleted from the statute book.

My honourable friends think there is the dollar pool and America is embracing us with both hands and we have an overflowing trade balance and therefore we need not worry ourselves with this international bank. Let us see the situation. The trade figures are these. In 1938, we had imports from the United States to the tune of 1141 crores and the exports were 1343 crores, the balance of trade in our favour being 2 crores. That was before the war. In 1943 the imports were 17 crores as against exports of 32 crores, leaving us a favourable balance of 15 crores. In 1944, the imports were 39 crores and the exports 48 crores, the favourable balance being 9 crores. But last year—1945—our imports were to the tune of 71 crores while exports were only 50 crores—a minus balance, an adverse balance of 20 crores. This may go on increasing if we go on giving orders for plant and machinery in that country. How are you going to meet this deficit? We were under the impression that there is a huge dollar pool. This is something like the son quarrelling with his father after everything had been wasted away by the father, filling a minor's suit and making sweeping allegations. The government then in existence and which was then all power devastated and made the worst use of the dollar pool which we earned by way of surplus trade balances, they misused it and abused it for their own purposes. But what is the use of our going on quarrelling till the end of the world until they make reparations to us? Reparations may be got more easily from Germany than from England. Are we to wait and not immediately get dollars from America? How are you going otherwise to meet this minus 20 crores? Sterling is useless. England knows that sterling is un-currency coin in the United States and therefore she has borrowed 3,700 million dollars from America and are we to sit with folded hands? My honourable friend said "What is the good of issuing pamphlets and requesting the trade and the industrialists to tell us the par value of exchange?" I never thought this argument would be used at all. I am not an expert in these matters. These are for big financiers who know exactly where the shoe pinches. I am glad the government is not run by industrialists but I would certainly ask the industrialists to give us advice as to what ought to be the par value of the rupee they know much better as to how these things work, and whether it will be advantageous to us, whether imports will come in or whether exports will go out—these are within their knowledge. Are there not eminent industrialists like Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas and Mr. Birla? Are their opinions to have no value merely because they are industrialists? I do not pretend to know anything about these things. But is it proper for professors and others to say that these persons ought not to be consulted? I say the Government is adopting the right course in consulting the industrialists and chambers of

commerce and federations of chambers they are the persons who are competent to give advice and in future also I would request and advise this government not to ignore these people. Personally I am not an industrialist and I do not stand to lose anything. I am entitled to talk more on socialism than on other subjects because I am the biggest socialist going and I stand to get advantage as a socialist. Therefore I shall not deceive myself or cloud the issue by saying that the right type of persons ought not to be consulted. No doubt the government has to gather all kinds of opinion—it should not be carried away merely by one set of opinions, but every section is entitled to give an opinion. Therefore so far as this par value and other things are concerned, we have more to gain than to lose.

I have kept the House sufficiently long. I urge the acceptance of this motion not on account of sentiment or political advantages, not because we have been allowed to make our representations on the South African question before the U.N.O. That is a vexed question. We are still struggling under various difficulties, but the one advantage will be that we will be thrown along with various other countries of the world, linking with gold or dollars, which is the real currency now. The moment we find that this does not work properly, we can get out. It is just like saying that before the marriage is celebrated we must think of divorce and what will happen after the divorce to the jewels, etc., or to go still further and say "What will happen if the son-in-law should die?" That is not the argument that I am trying to place. Our arguments have been misunderstood. It is not that we do not have a right to withdraw. Withdrawal at any stage will not leave us alone so far as the bank is concerned. By that time the bank would have spent away all its money—thrown it to the wolves—I am not unmindful of that, but will there be such a huge crash when it is manned by so many people? It is not as if it is as bad as some of my friends want to make it out to be. Nor is it as rosy. No institution in the world is perfect. The world is trying to progress.

I would like to make a suggestion, but it ought not to be taken as a personal request. I would like, as in the United States this Committee or some other committee should continue to be in existence, to be consulted from time to time. The United States set up a standing committee at Bretton Woods to advise the President. The present committee may become *functus officio* the moment it has reported to this House, or its membership may continue if the House of its own accord decides it. It may be consulted. But I would urge upon the Honourable Finance Member that this committee or one with additions or subtractions, but a standing committee of this House, ought to be consulted from time to time. There are points to be consulted about. One of the most important is this. When Russia did not join we joined and we were the fifth, but it is said there are persons in order of contribution of shares. The United States stands first, then comes the United Kingdom, then Russia then China and then France. The sixth place is given to India. In the articles of association both of the bank and of the monetary fund, it is said that the first five members have got the right to nominate the permanent directors to the directorate. We come sixth and we have got only the right to elect our directors along with the others—with Venezuela and with Kamatschatka and other small countries. I request them to put me also in one of them.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaonkar (Government of India. Nominated official). We can elect ourselves with our own quota.

Sir Gowdasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official). Even if Russia comes in, we shall still be in.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaonkar: Till the next election.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Not if Russia comes in. No amount of jugglery can alter the present position. The article clearly says that you can be there only as a temporary member, just as the caretaker government was here till our government came in. The moment Russia comes in we shall be obfuscated out. What is the good of trying to throw dust in our eyes. India

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has, to get out the moment Russia comes in. We must pray that at least until next year Russia may not come in. Why should we not have an honoured place. If five members are entitled to elect, why not a sixth member be entitled to nominate a permanent member. We must insist upon that. There are other ways of implanting ourselves permanently into international organisations. That is the right attitude to take. We should be watchful with a thousand eyes from time to time. That is No 1.

No 2 is that you must have a permanent committee behind you. The Governor and the Directors may be invited to state what steps have to be taken so that they may advise the Government from time to time as to the progress made. I also find from a debate in the House of Commons that the fund is to be used by various influential powers for extending their spheres of influence. The directors there may lend money to Greece where a similar monarchy like that of the United Kingdom exists. England has got sympathies with Greece and they want to wean Greece away from the onslaught or overtures of Russia. I hope my Honourable friends in the European Group will not misunderstand me. The United States may try to give this money to China. Even the U.N.R.R.A. has not been used properly. The United States is more fond of China than India. I do want this committee to continue. It should advise the Government and report to this House. We must see that this money is not used for rehabilitating war ravaged countries or for increasing the spheres of influence of the United States or Britain. Therefore a standing committee is necessary.

Thirdly about the par value. It should not be settled over the heads of the Assembly. I do not want that the par value should be decided only in the Secretariat. The opinions collected on this point should be placed before this committee. We should be watchful of the progress with a thousand eyes. The Honourable the Finance Member has mastered this subject in such a short time, although it took us many long months. He delivered a beautiful speech. I would urge on him that he should continue this standing committee of the House and see that the money is not abused by the important powers. Otherwise harm will be done to this country. I request all sections of the House to wholeheartedly support this motion.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I am indeed grateful to the House for the friendly reception which they have given to the motion which I had the honour to move yesterday as a member of this Government. I am also grateful to my friends for the kind sentiments which they have been good enough to express about me and I hope and trust that the friendliness shown during the course of this debate will continue. On my part, I would like to assure the Honourable Members of this House that as long as I hold charge of the department my earnest endeavour will be to see that the finances of the country are managed in the interest of the peoples of India.

My Honourable friend and colleague, Dr Matthal, in a very able speech yesterday, if I may be permitted to say so, put forward the case for the acceptance of the motion which I had moved. I would not like to traverse the same ground but there are certain points which have arisen in the course of the debate on which I would like to reassure the Honourable Members of this House. My friend Mr Manu Subedar whose friendly criticism I value and my friend Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi whose discordant note I listened to with a musical mind have referred to this question of sterling balances. My friend Mr Siddiqi said that yesterday I used the expression 'as soon as possible'. May I remind him that I did not use that expression in connection with the payment of the debt. I used that expression in connection with the opening of negotiations and arriving at a settlement and therefore that expression 'as soon as possible' stands. Sir, my Honourable friend Mr Subedar said that His Majesty's Government, leave alone the question of coming to a settlement, are not even willing to start negotiations. I cannot say what has been the attitude of His Majesty's

Government in the past but I can tell him, and my knowledge is based on certain correspondence that has passed between this Government and His Majesty's Government, that since the complexion of the Government of India has changed, the attitude of His Majesty's Government has also undergone a change and they are today anxious to start these negotiations with regard to our sterling balances.

My Honourable Colleague, Dr Matthal yesterday stated the policy of the Government in very explicit terms with regard to the sterling balances. I endorse every word of that and I want to make it absolutely clear that whatever agreement may have been arrived at between the U S A and the United Kingdom in connection with the Anglo-American loan, we are not bound by it. We were not a party to it and if it is mentioned as one of the terms that there shall be a scaling down of the sterling balances, well, India is certainly not bound by it and we do not accept that proposition. My Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar and Mr Siddiqui also, who, if I might be permitted to say so, amplified the remarks that Mr Manu Subedar had made, stated that England had not paid its debts after the first Great War. May I tell them that it is wrong tactics to remind a debtor that he can commit default with impunity. We should have belief in this that England as an honourable nation will stand by the debt which it has incurred and I hope and trust that U K will honour the debt which they owe to this country.

[At this stage Mr President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr Deputy President (Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan)]

Now, Sir, there is another point in the speech of Mr Siddiqui. He referred to the third interim report and said that the members in their report had not really definitely stated their opinion about it and therefore he felt that the members of this Committee were not quite clear whether we should accept to go in and remain in these International organisations or we should not. Three of the four members who have signed the report have supported the motion which I have placed before the House more vehemently than even what I have done. Therefore, it is quite clear that these Honourable friends, who had certainly greater knowledge and information with regard to this matter, are convinced that it is in the interests of this country to join these International organisations. My friend Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqui stated that if I had come forward with a proposal to give all this amount of money which is involved in the present motion and said that I wanted to give this as a gift to the war-ravaged countries, he would have supported me and said "Yes, go and regain your soul". His complaint against me is that it is not only that I want to regain my soul but I also want to protect my body. Therefore, really speaking, I do not think there is any strong argument that has been advanced by my Honourable friend in opposition to this except his distress based on past experience. My friend lives in the past, I want to live in the future.

Sir, there is one question that has been referred to by Mr Tyson and other Honourable Members and it is the question with regard to the par value of money. I can assure my friends that before any decision is taken, every effort will be made to get the opinions and the views of all those interests and persons that are qualified to express opinion on this subject.

Sir, my friend Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyangar suggested that we should either continue the present Committee or have another Standing Committee to give advice and whom we may consult from time to time with regard to this matter. All that I can say at this moment is that this proposal will certainly receive my very careful consideration. I do want and it is my desire and I am sure it is the desire of all the members of the present Government that whatever action we take and whatever policy we adopt it should be done with the co-operation and the support of the Honourable Members of this House. Therefore I can assure him that I will certainly give my very careful consideration to his proposal.

Sir, there is just one more point that I would like to mention. During the course of the debate a number of points have been raised and I may assure those

[Mr Liaquat Ali Khan]

Honourable Members whose speeches I have not been able to refer to that I shall have every point examined by the Department and shall consider it myself personally. I hope that in a matter of this kind I can always count upon not only the support and co-operation but also the advice of the Members of this Honourable House. So I commend my motion to the acceptance of this House.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That this Assembly, having considered the third report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Agreements do hereby approve India's continued membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member) : Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. V. M. Joshi, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Pandit Bilkrishna Sharma, Mr. Vaidial Lalubhai, Sir T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Sreejit Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Mr. P. J. Griffiths, Mr. A. C. Inkup, Sardar Sampuran Singh, Mr. S. C. Joshi, Miss Maniben Kara, Mr. S. Guruswami, Mr. Muhammad Numan, Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer, Seth Yusuf Abdool Hatoon and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, I do not want to make a long speech on this subject. The Bill deals with a subject which is not altogether new. It has engaged the attention of the Central Government since 1910 when it was discussed at a meeting of Provincial Labour Ministers. Thereafter Provincial Governments were formally consulted and the views expressed in reply were rather divergent. After considering the replies and discussions in the second Labour Conference in January 1941 it was decided to proceed with legislation and the Provincial Governments and organisations of employers and workers were consulted in the form of a draft Bill. In the light of replies received a revised Bill was prepared and circulated to provincial governments in August 1943 and a motion for enactment was adopted by this House the same year. That Bill was not however proceeded with and was allowed to lapse. The provincial governments were again consulted on some substantial points and a new Bill was ultimately prepared. This is the Bill which is now before the House. I think it will be agreed that voluntary recognition of Trade Unions though commended by the Royal Commission on Labour has not proved successful and in many disputes which have come to the notice of the Central Government, one common point in dispute related to non-recognition of a particular union of workers. It was difficult in many cases, in the absence of statutory provisions to compel the employer to recognise the Union, while it would have also been embarrassing to do so by persuasion when no rules or conditions have been laid down subject to which a Union will be entitled to recognition. We have therefore come to the conclusion that the time has come for a statutory provision by which trade unions fulfilling certain conditions should be entitled to be recognised by the employers. The Bill provides for such a statutory recognition by the appropriate Government which in the case of Unions in the central sphere will be the Central Government and the provincial governments concerned in regard to trade unions in the provincial spheres. The principal object of the Bill is that a trade union fulfilling the conditions provided in clause 28(d) will be entitled to recognition by the employer and one of the important conditions is that the Union should be a representative trade union. Another important condition is that the Union seeking recognition must have been registered under the Trade Unions Act for at least twelve months prior to its application for recognition. This salutary provision will prevent too many trade unions being formed hastily and applying for recognition straightaway. Opinions have been expressed that a trade union seeking recognition must contain not less than a prescribed percentage of workers in the undertaking or industry. In a Central Act which should meet the requirements both

of the central and the provincial governments, when conditions may be different in different areas, some elasticity is most desirable. For instance, where the Union is of workers of one single factory, it may well be desirable to provide for membership on a larger proportion of workers than in an industry scattered in different areas. For this purpose provision has been made that a trade union shall be deemed to be representative trade union only if it satisfies such conditions as may be prescribed by the appropriate government. The ultimate ideal to be aimed is to have one strong single union truly representative. But it may not be practicable to achieve it immediately. For some time to come, there might be more than one recognised Union. But provision has been made in clause 28(g) of the Bill by which among others the industrial court set up for the purpose will have the power to withdraw recognition of a trade union if satisfied that it has ceased to be a representative trade union. This provision along with that of clause 38(d) will give power to the appropriate Government to impose suitable conditions so as to ensure that a large number of rival trade unions do not spring up thereby damaging the cause of workers instead of furthering it. If a statutory provision is made for recognition of trade unions and for giving such recognised unions certain rights and privileges, it is equally essential that such unions should also realise certain fundamental obligations. Therefore certain practices by the trade unions have been defined as unfair practices and any recognised trade union guilty of unfair practice will be liable to have its recognition withdrawn. The unfair practices will be for a majority of the members of the Union to take part in an irregular strike or for the executive of the Union to advise or actively to support or to instigate irregular strike. It is not of course the intention to forbid declaration of strikes in a regular way in conformity with rules made by the Union laying down the procedure for declaring a strike. Also it will be unfair practice if the officer of a recognised union submits any return containing false statements. It is realised that while some responsibility and obligations are put on the members and executives of recognised trade unions, some essential conditions should be imposed on the employers also in regard to their dealing with such Union. Therefore interference with the rights of workmen to organise, form, join or assist trade unions, interference with the formation or administration of any trade union, encouraging or discouraging membership of any trade union by discrimination against the employees concerned, penalising workmen for making allegations or giving evidence in enquiries or proceedings relating to matters connected with dealings of recognised trade unions or any failure to comply with the mandatory provisions relating to rights of recognised trade unions have been declared as unfair practices by employers. Provision has been made for punishing with fine an employer who is guilty of an unfair practice. The punishment should fit the crime and a provision has been made that a union whose recognition has been withdrawn can apply *de novo* for recognition on the expiry of not less than six months from the date of withdrawal of its recognition. To inspire the utmost confidence of both parties the Bill provides that except where there is agreement the ultimate decision regarding recognition will be settled by the appropriate government after receiving the recommendations of the industrial court to be set up for the purpose. The industrial court will consist only of persons who are qualified for appointment as Judges of High Courts.

Sir, some might criticise that the provision in clause 28(d) (h) which allows the appropriate government to prescribe further conditions to be fulfilled before recognising trade union gives rather wide powers to the appropriate government. Here, again, as I have said before, the Central Act should be reasonably elastic so that the appropriate Government will be empowered to frame rules on various matters the nature of which may vary in order to meet local requirements in any particular province. Quite apart from the obvious desirability for legislation for statutory recognition of trade unions, there is another important factor which makes such a legislative enactment essentially necessary. A Bill for dealing with industrial disputes has already been introduced in this session and one main feature of it is that the provisions will go to operate where the appropriate government is satisfied that in regard to a dispute by the workers,

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

the workers making the application really represent those employed in the industrial undertaking concerned. A system of statutory recognition of trade unions would considerably assist in judging whether a body of workers making an application do really represent the majority or a sufficient percentage of workers in the industrial undertaking concerned. In fact one provincial Government in its Industrial Relations Bill which was recently passed has included provisions relating to the recognition of unions in the Industrial Relations Bill itself. It is, however, a matter mostly of convenience whether this would be more suitable than an amendment of the Trade Unions Act as proposed in the present Bill. The Government of India has come to the conclusion that in the matter of central legislation the procedure we propose will be more convenient.

Sir, with these words I commend that the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. M. Joshi, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Mr. Vaidilal Lalubhu, Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Mr. P. J. Griffiths, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sardar Sampuran Singh, Mr. S. C. Joshi, Miss Maniben Kara, Mr. S. Guruswamy, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer, Seth Yunus Abdoola Haicon and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division, Muzaffarnagar Rural). Sir, I wish we had more time to study this Bill. I wish the Bill had been circulated and opinions received, but I should like to draw attention to one or two general things at this stage. Although we are handicapped by the fact that it has come from a department which has no regard for the opinions of the country, I will say at the outset that the method of approach of the Labour Department to this labour question is faulty. You will not satisfy the labourers of India by adopting these methods of piecemeal legislation. This might be good 25 years ago but they are not good in 1946 or the years that follow. There is great unrest in labour and these little pieces of conciliation will not satisfy them. They want some kind of radical change and a full share in the administration, without which they will not be satisfied. I pointed out last year that there are two methods only by which you can solve the labour problem. One is the method of Russia of abolishing capitalism altogether and nationalising all industries. Under that method there will be no strikes and no legislation of this kind will be necessary. But I am sure India is not prepared for that kind of thing and I am myself not in favour of these Bolshevik methods and abolishing capitalism altogether, the other method is the one which Germany adopted before the Great War of 1914 and which I recommend to the Honourable Member for careful consideration. Now that we have our own Government and we should have no difficulty. We know that in every country labour is now in power. Things are not decided by the arguments of the intelligentsia but by the votes of the majority. And labour is now in the majority everywhere. So we have to consider it carefully. Under the German system every one had an interest in the industry. The workers, the directors, the shareholders, form one corporate body.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official). Sir, on a point of order, what my Honourable friend is saying does not seem to be relevant to the Bill before us. He is explaining his own philosophy but has not touched upon the Bill at all.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: In the absence of the motion for circulation I am opposing the Bill altogether and I am giving my arguments. I said at the beginning that these piecemeal measures are all useless. I am saying that in Germany before the war of 1914 the workers, directors and shareholders were all considered to be a body corporate engaged in that particular trade. Every one had a living wage and the profit that accrued was divided among all these

panies in an equitable manner. The workers came to think that it was their factory and efficient working would mean more profits in which they would have a share, and if there was loss they would suffer. So the question of a tug-of-war between the employers and the workers never arose there because everybody was in the same boat. Unless you create such atmosphere in our industries you will have this tug-of-war. Either you nationalise all your industries and follow the Russian example or you must make the workmen feel that they have a real interest in the factory in which they are working, that their interest is not limited to the wages they draw but it lies in the prosperity and success of that factory they are business partners. That is the principle which you have to inculcate, and then these Bills will be useless because there will be no fight between capital and labour. You anticipate this struggle between workers and employers and resulting strikes and other difficulties. This is the position which you create and I must warn the Honourable Member that if he creates this position, his own followers, whom he has the honour to represent, will one day burn the factories of these big capitalists who will come to grief. The time is not far.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Do not advance it.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: You have not realized the feeling which a workman has got. His feeling is this. Here is a man who has raised a capital of one lakh and has started a factory. He has paid 100 rupees as his share. The lakh of rupees which the shareholders pay do not bring in any money, they do not constitute the factory, they do not bring in the profit, the profit is made by the workmen, they are the people who produce wealth. And then they are thrown out entirely. By putting in a lakh of rupees, the capitalist accumulates a reserve fund to the tune of 40 lakhs, and 30 to 40 per cent is paid as dividend. Who is responsible for all this profit? Labour, labour who has been put down, it is a form of indentured labour. The workman thinks within his mind that this man has invested 100 rupees and he wants me to work hard enough so that he may earn 40 per cent instead of 3 per cent which he would otherwise earn in a bank. And he is right. It is the workman who is responsible for putting this additional income into the pockets of these shareholders. He says why do you demand from the workmen so much work that for every hundred rupees you get 40 rupees income in addition to 40 lakhs which you have already put down in Reserve. This is the feeling of the workmen, and this Bill will not stop this feeling. You will have to go much further than that. That is not the way in which this question should be settled. You may satisfy them for two years more, perhaps 3 years, but the time is not far distant when labour will not be satisfied by these measures. All these fashionable leaders of workmen who have made careers in the name of labour have not expounded their case properly. They do not represent the true case of the workman. The true case of the workman is this. What right has any capitalist got to expect the workman to do so much work that with 100 rupees he should earn 40 rupees as interest?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) No right.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: What steps have you taken as a representative of labour to put a stop to this practice? Not a word from Mr. Joshi for the last 15 years.

Mr. Deputy President: Will the Honourable Member come to the subject of trade unions?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I oppose the Bill and I say it is absolutely useless.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) These are preliminary remarks, he has not yet begun!

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: This particular thing should be looked into. If you shove it today, you will have to take it up tomorrow. You can have no security of these factories unless you look into this matter. This is the feeling that is now uppermost in the mind of the younger generation, the young men of India think somewhat differently from what we old men have been thinking.

[Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad]

in the past. They are more impetuous and they want to get on, they have been talking about the equitable distribution of wealth. My Honourable friend, Sir John Matthai, gave a lecture day-before-yesterday on equitable distribution. Take Birla on one side and a workman on the other. Is it not resented by the workman? After all, look at the way in which Birla lives and the way in which a workman lives. This agitates their mind. This little Bill will not satisfy him. If you take his opinion, he will say that this is an eye-wash and this is simply wasting the time, it is not sufficient, they must have full share in the administration of wealth which is really produced by their own labour.

As regards recognition of the unions, I have been fighting all the time against disqualifying class unions. I have not read this Bill along with the original Act but there is one thing I must say and that is class unions should not be disqualified. If you altogether omit the recognition of class unions, then it will be strongly resented.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official). On a point of information I want to understand from the Honourable Member what he means by 'class unions'.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is the same thing as what you call 'communal unions'.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Supposing all Vice-Chancellors forms a class?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad. With these words I hope that the Honourable Member will take this matter seriously. This is the way in which the majority of young men are thinking and you cannot postpone it for a long time. You have to satisfy your labour.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association Indian Commerce). This is not the Wages Bill.

Shri Sri Prakasa: You are thinking of some other Bill, you are on the wrong track.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I know it is not the wages Bill. But I tell you that the people for whom you have introduced this Bill will not be satisfied. You have to do something substantial for them. It is a waste of time doing things in this way. I request you not to waste the time of the Assembly. You had better consult the labour and ask them what they want. They will tell you that they want what I have been telling just now. This thing will not satisfy them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural). Mr Deputy President, I am rather surprised at the attitude displayed today by Dr Zia Uddin. Dr Zia Uddin wants labour to obtain all the fruits of its own labour. There is no difference of opinion on that particular point between him and ourselves. We all want labour to come into its own and to be able to control all the activities of industrial production in which labour is employed and to have complete say in the matters of their employment and conditions of life and in the end to appropriate for themselves and also for the whole of society all the fruits of their labour through their own volition and vote.

The point that is under discussion at present is not that all. We have to take things as they are in this country. I do agree with him in giving a warning to our employers that they learn to behave much better towards their labour than they do at present. Otherwise things would become much more hot for them in the very near future. At the same time, as things are today there are the employers and the employees. The employees are in a helpless condition. It is true they are getting themselves organized. They are becoming more and more powerful. Yet they are not sufficiently powerful and organised. That is why there is a need for a bill like this.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: You could go to the country and organise it!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My friend wants me to organize labour. That is exactly what I am busy about and what my Honourable friend is not busy about.

Already one suggestion was made by Shri Prakasa that he should go and organise the Vice-Chancellors. I am afraid the Vice-Chancellors are already organised. They are so few and vociferous and monied.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Hear, hear. The last is the most important!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is easy for one to throw these gibes at these so-called fashionable labour leaders. It is true that labour leaders sometimes manage to come decently prepared to this House and present the case of labour. Is it the case of Dr Zia Uddin or those who think like him that merely because a man is decently dressed he is no longer entitled to be the spokesman of labour? I know there are so many friends of mine who would indulge in such cheap gibes at people like myself when we claim to speak on behalf of agriculturists and peasants. It is easy for them to say that peasants should not feed themselves properly but they should continue to feed others properly, that workers should not dress themselves properly but that they should be busy dressing all other people properly. That is a very unreasonable attitude. Fashionable or otherwise, well dressed or otherwise, a labour leader continues to be a labour leader so long as he sincerely and stoutly espouses the cause of labour, and I can assure my Honourable friend, Dr Zia Uddin, even if he were to become forgetful about the activities and services of one of the fashionable labour leaders who happens to be in our midst—Mr Joshi—certainly it is not only the microscopic minority that industrial labour happens to be in this country which is proud of him. It is the whole nation of India which is proud of him, not only because he happens to be a Member of this House, and a Father of this House, but also because he has been a stout and consistent champion of industrial labour of this country.

Therefore it is not right to waver this House and divert its attention in the wrong way by bringing in irrelevant considerations.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: He is a Vice-Chancellor. Do not worry!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We want profit-sharing as only a midway solution, whereas my Honourable friend, Dr Zia Uddin seems to think that profit sharing is everything. It is not so. We want the workers themselves to come to control all these industries. But today they are not in control of these industries. They are so poor and powerless and unorganised that they have begun to organise themselves. But their organisations are not powerful and they are obliged to come to the Government during the last 25 years with this request that their organisations should be recognised. It is true that there will certainly come a time in this country when it will be possible for our labour, industrial and organised, to put up the slogan of one union for all classes of workers as is happening to-day in England. The other day there the British Trade Union Congress put out this slogan and is now trying to substantiate it so that if, any one particular trade or industry there will be one union claiming to represent all the organised labour in that particular industry and it would not allow the class to be divided into two or three rival unions lest they should be the worse exploited by the employers. Until that happy day comes, it is most necessary that a national Government like ours should come forward and should hasten to come forward with a Bill like this to assure our workers even with this little minimum of protection.

What is it that is sought to be given? My Honourable friend and many others who might follow him, seem to think that it is this present Bill which seems to perpetuate a class war or foment a class war. Isn't it a fact that today there is a class war going on between one class of people and another, whether it is noticeable or otherwise? It is true. It becomes noticeable the moment labour become conscious of their drawbacks, organise themselves, begin to assert their rights and demand a fair deal for themselves. That does not mean that it does not exist and prevail in all these areas, industries and factories where the workers for the time being happen to be so powerless and voiceless that they cannot assert their right. It is part of statesmanship to recognise facts as they are and then try to find a solution. We all want to

[Prof N G Ranga]

eliminate class war. Already the Madras Premier has shown one of the ways. Mahatma Gandhi has been showing it too. My friend wants us to remember that all young people are being influenced by new ideas. Certainly I am glad he has fallen in line with them and I hope that he will also march in step with them and try and abolish all these inequalities and also eliminate the development of the political and economic power of these great capitalists. We are showing the way, and one of the things we wish to do is by this means also to give power to our industrial employees so that they would be able to assert themselves and make it impossible for these capitalists to continue to press down the masses through their power, their instrument and weapon of class war.

How are we to eliminate this class war in a more positive form?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: You can say that to-morrow!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: By enabling our workers to defeat the capitalists and make it impossible for the employers to continue to exploit them.

Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan) Has any Honourable Member given any notice of a motion for the circulation of this Bill?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Yes, there is. But the difficulty was that it was given only this morning and it was expected that the previous motion would go on till five o'clock. But this has come up now and I request you that that motion may be allowed to-morrow. If you circulate it to Members tonight, then to-morrow it can be moved.

Mr. Deputy President: Has it been handed over to the Secretary?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Yes.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member may continue to-morrow. The House now stands adjourned till to-morrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 30th October 1946.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 30th OCTOBER, 1946

Vol. VII—No. 3

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, the 30th October, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

DEREQUISITIONING OF PROPERTY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1946

67. *Mr. C. P. Lawson : Will the Defence Secretary please state

(a) what progress has been made in the derequisitioning of property since the beginning of 1946,

(b) what is the present expenditure on account of requisitioned property ; and

(c) how many camps erected for war purposes are now standing unoccupied, what is their capacity and what steps are being taken to utilise them ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : (a) Between 1st January 1946 and 30th September 1946 the number of buildings derequisitioned was 2,947 and lands 647. The total percentage of buildings derequisitioned up to the end of September 1946 was 61 per cent. and that of lands 18 per cent.

(b) The rent for requisitioned buildings on 30th September 1946 was approximately Rs 186 lakhs and for lands Rs 434 lakhs per annum.

(c) Information is not readily available, but is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

All steps are being taken to transfer members of the Armed Forces from requisitioned property to vacant camps, but it is pointed out that during the demobilization period large numbers of troops are continually returning from overseas and some of these camps must be kept vacant for some time as they will be required at short notice to provide accommodation for troops on arrival in India.

Mr C P. Lawson : Is the Honourable Member aware that his predecessor gave this House an undertaking that derequisitioning would in all probability be complete by the end of the current year and can he say whether his predecessor's undertaking is likely to be fulfilled ?

Mr G. S. Bhalja : I do not recollect that any undertaking was given to the effect that derequisitioning will be completed by the end of this year. I think it is very unlikely but I have not referred to the previous papers on the subject.

Mr. C. P. Lawson : Has the Honourable Member seen the Legislative Assembly Debates on the question to which I have referred ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I have not seen.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Will the Honourable the Defence Secretary inform this House what categories, so far as buildings are concerned, are still continuing to be in occupation by the army people and why ? Have Government considered the possibility of sending out certain departments altogether from urban areas and vacating their premises ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : It will take me too long to explain why it has not been possible to derequisition all buildings immediately, but, if I may, I might mention three factors which I hope will convince the House that it is not possible to expedite derequisitioning more than we are doing. We have at the moment a million men in uniform, that is roughly four times the strength of the army before the war. These men have to be housed, fed, clothed and equipped, all of which require accommodation. Then we have large scale movements of troops in the East and the West and for them we must have transit camps ready to receive them whenever they

come to India. And, thirdly, the Defence Department has the responsibility for storage and guarding of huge surplus stores, including the American surplus stores, whose value amounts to several crores of rupees. I can however assure the Honourable Member that nobody is more anxious than His Excellency the Commander in Chief and the Honourable the Defence Member to derequisition as fast as possible all buildings and lands which are in the possession of the armed forces at the moment.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Is it not a fact that according to the original requisitioning order by which properties were requisitioned, the properties were required only for the period of the war and for six months after its termination? If so, why were the properties not derequisitioned yet, especially in Poona and Bombay?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I have already given the reasons why we were not able to derequisition the properties at the end of the period of six months after the termination of the war and my Honourable friend probably is aware that His Excellency the Governor-General issued an Ordinance legalising the continued possession of the requisitioned property after the termination of this period.

Seth Govind Das : How many more troops are still overseas, how many are expected back and within what time?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I can only say in general terms that the policy of the Interim Government is that the troops which are in overseas theatres should be withdrawn as quickly as possible. This of course is subject to the obligations arising from our past associations with other countries.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Under what authority are Government retaining these properties which should have been derequisitioned at the end of the six months after the termination of the War?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : Under the authority of the Ordinance issued by His Excellency the Governor-General, which has the force of law.

INDIANS UNDER DETENTION AS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S PRISONERS

68. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many Indians are still in detention as Government of India prisoners for:

- (i) contact with the enemy during war,
 - (ii) actively participating in or collaborating the Indian National Army, Indian Independence League and similar organisations,
 - (iii) political, terrorist or subversive activities including those connected with the Quit India movement of August 1942 and after, and
 - (iv) otherwise taking part in activities for the Independence of the country?
- (b) How many such persons are still prisoners in each or any of the provincial Governments?
- (c) What is the policy of the Government of India with regard to both (a) and (b) above?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) and (b). No person is now detained without trial under the orders of the Central Government or any Chief Commissioner.

Under the categories in (a) and (b) the number of prisoners undergoing sentences with whom the Central Government is concerned is as follows:

- (i) 10 (8 in Punjab jails and 2 in United Provinces jails);
- (ii) nil, (iii) nil,
- (iv) nil

(c) Government have remitted the unexpired portions of the sentences of the 10 persons mentioned above and their release has been ordered.

The information given above does not include persons who may be in prison serving sentences awarded in trial by Courts Martial or military Courts. Question in regard to those prisoners should be addressed to the Defence Secretary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : In view of the fact that the conditions obtaining in the Punjab jails were considered by many of the political prisoners who were kept there to be most unsatisfactory, will Government consider the advisability of transferring those prisoners who are kept in the Punjab jails either to the jails in the centrally administered areas or the United Provinces ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : So far as the prisoners in the Punjab jails are concerned they have been ordered to be released. Why should they be transferred elsewhere ?

Miss Maniben Kara : Will the Honourable Member tell this House whether he considers trade union workers who are arrested as political prisoners ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : I know of no such classification as trade union prisoners. I could not quite follow the Honourable Member's question.

Mr. President : The question is whether trade union prisoners are classified as political prisoners or are not.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : There is no such classification as political prisoners at all.

Miss Maniben Kara : Do I understand that along with the release of political prisoners trade union prisoners also will be released ? Is the Honourable Member aware that in Delhi there are a number of trade union workers still in jail ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : I have no information on the subject, but if the Honourable Member wants any information I shall inquire. I require notice.

Shri Sri Prakasa : With reference to part (b) of the question, has the Honourable Member looked into the cases of such I. N. A. prisoners as are in the United Provinces and if so, when does he expect to release them ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : This question must be addressed to the Defence Department.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : May I know from the Honourable Member if he is aware that 12 or 13 prisoners who have been convicted under the Enemy Agents Ordinance and kept in the Vellore jail have been put in the 'C' class and their rations are little better than that of ordinary convicts, and that in spite of the efforts of the provincial Government we have not been able to do much for them ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : So far as I am aware, there are only ten enemy agent convicts who have been ordered to be released and five who are in jails—four in Bengal and one in Madras. These Provincial Governments have been informed of our orders and we have recommended them for release.

Miss Maniben Kara : Will the Honourable Member tell us whether the people arrested at the time of the V. Day celebrations are going to be released ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : I have no information on the subject. I will make inquiries. I want notice.

PUBLIC SPEECHES BY MUSLIM LEAGUERS AND THE DISTURBANCES IN INDIA

†69. **Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal :** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state :

(a) whether the Government of India had any reports from their Intelligence services in Bengal about the tenor of the public speeches of some Muslim Leaguers, as likely to create a riotous atmosphere ;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India tendered any advice or gave any warning to the Government of Bengal in that respect ;

(c) whether the Government of India gave any advice to the Bengal Government with reference to the declaration of 16th August as a public holiday as a Direct Action Day ; If so, what was it ;

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

[30th Oct. 1946]

(d) whether any, and if so, what steps were taken by the Government of India for forestalling disturbances and whether the Governor-General was asked to intervene,

(e) whether any, and if so, what steps have been or are being taken to remedy the situation of helplessness that has been prevailing in Bengal ever since the outbreak of disturbances and still continuing,

(f) whether the Government of India have any responsibilities in the matter of protection of lives and properties of the population in Bengal on partial or total failure of the Provincial Civil Authority to do so, and how the Government propose to discharge such responsibility, and

(g) whether advice was given by the Government of India to the Governor-General to exercise his individual and special responsibility to the people of Bengal and for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the said province? And what was the result of such advice?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) Reports of the Intelligence services cannot be disclosed and I regret, therefore, that I cannot deal with them in the manner

(b) The Government of India tendered no advice or warning to the Government of Bengal

(c) No

(d), (e) and (g) The responsibility for public order lies primarily with the Provincial Government. Discussions have taken place between the Governor-General and the Members of Government, but I regret this nature cannot be disclosed. I have dealt with the whole matter on the 28th October on the adjournment motion on the same subject.

(f) This is a matter of opinion and interpretation of the law, and I would refer the Honourable Member to Section 41 of the Ninth Schedule and other relevant provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

ENQUIRIES re DEATH OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

70. *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether the Interim Government have made any enquiries if Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is dead or alive, and

(b) whether Government propose to make an authoritative statement on this question and set at rest once for all the frequent speculations about his whereabouts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) No

(b) Government are not in a position to make any authoritative statement on this subject.

Sardar Mangal Singh : May I know whether any Indian was associated with this inquiry which has been conducted recently into the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : No inquiry has been made by the Government of India.

Mr. President : The answer to the first part was in the negative. How does the supplementary arise?

Sardar Mangal Singh : Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement issued by Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, President of the Forward Block, that he knows for certain that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is alive?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : If the statement attributed to Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar turns out to be true, I will be very glad, but so far as we are concerned we have no information. I have seen contradictory statements in the press from responsible men, both here and outside India.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : In view of the fact that there are three questions tabled on the subject today and in view of the anxiety of Honourable Members on this subject, will the Government of India make an announcement one way or the other and say whether the gentleman is dead or alive ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : The Government of India can make no announcement without any positive information on the subject

Sardar Mangal Singh : A few days ago the Honourable the Leader of the House made a statement that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is dead. Is that the view of the Government of India or his personal view ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : The Government of India have no view either way

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan : When that view is challenged by a person in the responsible position of Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar who said "Pundit Nehru's statement does not satisfy us", we want this House to be informed whether Subhas Chandra Bose is dead or alive actually ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : As I have said, not only myself but the House will be very glad if it turns out to be true that he is alive. But it is for Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar to give any information he may have to the Government of India.

REORGANIZATION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

71. *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether Government propose to make a general statement regarding the recruitment and reorganisation of the services now known as Secretary of States' Services and Central Services, and

(b) whether any change in the syllabus of the competitive examinations for the Indian Civil Service and other Imperial services is contemplated, if so, what is the new syllabus ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) of the three Services for which the Secretary of State makes appointments under the Government of India Act, 1935 viz., the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Medical Service (Civil), and the Indian Police, I am concerned only with the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police. Any enquiry regarding the Indian Medical Service (Civil) should be addressed to the Honourable the Health Minister

The Secretary of State has decided to suspend recruitment to war-reserved vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police and it is unlikely that the recruitment to these services by the Secretary of State will be resumed. A Conference of Provincial Premiers was convened on the 21st October 1946 by me to discuss arrangements to replace these services. The consensus of opinion at the Conference was in favour of the formation of new all-India Services for this purpose. Details are being worked out in consultation with the Provinces and when arrangements are finalised a public announcement will be made.

No proposal is under consideration for the reorganisation of the Central Services as a whole. In November last year Sir Richard Tottenham was placed on special duty to examine the question of the reorganisation of the Secretariat and to make recommendations. One of the recommendations made by him is that a new Central Secretariat Service should be constituted. Details regarding the formation of this service are being worked out.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration for changing the syllabus of the competitive examinations for the Indian Civil Service or the Indian Police. New methods of selection involving the use of intelligence and personality tests have been in use for some time to select candidates for the Forces and were also used for selecting 'war service' candidates to the war-reserved vacancies. The question whether the method of selection on the results of a competitive examination followed by an interview should be modified in any manner as a result of the experience gained of the new tests is being examined.

Shri Sri Prakasa : Have the Government assured themselves that such services are at all necessary in future ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : That is the concensus of opinion of the provinces

Shri Sri Prakasa : Is it not a fact that such services do not necessarily exist in other parts of the world ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : I do not know about other parts of the world but in India the services have been in existence for a long period, and almost all the provinces desire that such services, except for the control of the Secretary of State, should be continued

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Is it a fact that the Punjab Government wanted to have its own superior services ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : The Punjab Government was represented at the conference and its representative informed us that he had no objection to the proposed formation of a central administrative service. They however, wanted their own control over the service and had decided to have their own recruitment. If the control question was satisfactorily settled, they might fall into line with all the provinces in view of the discussions at the conference

Sardar Mangal Singh : May I know whether the new candidates to the civil service will be selected by the Public Service Commission or by the Selection Boards to which the Honourable Member has referred ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : The details, as I told you, are being worked out

APPOINTMENTS TO THE VACANCIES IN SECRETARY OF STATE'S AND TO CENTRAL SERVICES

72. *Sardar Mangal Singh : (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many of the 336 war vacancies in the Secretary of States Services and how many out of the 468 war vacancies in the Central Services have been filled in so far ?

(b) How long the recruitment to these appointments will continue from amongst the war service candidates ?

(c) Do Government propose to throw open some of these appointments to be filled in through competitive examinations ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) and (b) As the Honourable Member is probably aware, the Secretary of State has decided not to proceed with the appointment of 'war service' candidates to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police. No question, therefore, arises of making any recruitment of 'war service' candidates to these two Services. As regards the Central Services, the selection of Indian 'war service' candidates is expected to conclude by the end of this year, although it may be necessary to hold a supplementary selection early next year for the benefit of those few overseas candidates who could not attend the selection this year for reasons beyond their control and in respect of some vacancies advertised rather late in the year. No appointment has actually been made so far, but the Federal Public Service Commission have recommended 162 Indian candidates for the Indian Civil Service, 57 for the Indian Police and 167 for the Central non-technical Services. The question of appointing Indian candidates selected for the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police to an all-India Administrative Service and an all India Police Service, proposed to be formed to replace the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police, is under consideration. No information is at present available regarding the number of candidates selected for the Central technical Services

(c) Government anticipate that sufficient number of 'war service' candidates will not be available to fill all vacancies in the Central Services and are considering alternative means of recruitment, one of which is the competitive examination

Lt.Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : Have Government any plan for absorption in to these services war service candidates who had been given temporary appointments in the Indian Police or the Indian Civil Service or other Central Services ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : Some of them have already been absorbed. There is a plan.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri : Why are these reserved for war service candidates ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : The recruitment during the war period stopped and these people went and served in the war. At that time certain promises were given to them.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri : Do the Government realise that a large number of eligible candidates do not get the advantage, at least those candidates who belong to or where in sympathy with the Congress organisations ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : It is not true.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether in these matters it is the policy of the present Government to fulfil all the promises that have been made by the previous Government ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : As far as possible, it is the policy of the Government.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri : Is the Government aware that the Provincial Governments, particularly Assam, have refused to give any preference to war service candidates.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : I am afraid the Assam Government will reconsider its position.

Sgt. N V. Gadgil : Has a certain percentage been reserved for these candidates merely because they are war service candidates ? Is it not the case that merit is taken into consideration ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : No, because of their fitness. Some of them are considered to be better than even those coming from competitive examinations.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Will the Government reconsider the proportion and the ratio that has already been fixed by the previous Government, to see whether it is necessary to provide for such enormous or high percentage of war returned men ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : The matter requires further examination.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : May I know if the new recruitment that is proposed is to be thrown open to all persons both in India and overseas ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : No, it is not so.

Sardar Mangal Singh : May I know whether the Government of India will consider the proposal that in filling war vacancies no communal proportions be adhered to ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : That is quite a different matter altogether.

Seth Govind Das : Will the Government see that those persons who are not really capable and to whom promises have been given to retain after the war are dismissed and not retained ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : In no case can a man be employed in service simply because he is a war service candidate. His capacity is also equally a test.

DEMONETIZATION ORDINANCE

73. *Sardar Mangal Singh : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how far the objects of the Demonetization Ordinance have been achieved ?

(b) What is the amount of the high denomination notes which have not been presented for exchange for smaller denomination notes ?

(c) How much profit Government have made out of this ordinance ?

(d) How many prosecutions have been launched under the Demonetisation Ordinance and how many of them have resulted in convictions of the defaulters ?

(e) Have any prosecutions been started against any bank or banks ? If so, what are their names ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : (a) and (b) Out of a total of Rs 1,43,96,69,000 high denomination notes in circulation on the 11th January 1946 notes to the value of Rs 1,28,58,55,000 were encashed upto the 27th September 1946. In addition a certain number of claims presented to various authorities within and without India are awaiting decision. The amount involved in these claims cannot be ascertained without undue expenditure of time and labour but it is understood to be small relative to the notes already encashed. As the declarations that were filed by persons presenting notes for exchange are still under scrutiny, Government are unable to state how far the objects have been achieved.

(c) The aggregate value of the notes likely to remain uncashed is not yet known.

(d) Seven prosecutions have so far been launched, all of which are, as yet, *sub-judice*.

(e) None so far.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Iyyangar : Which is the authority which launches the prosecutions ? Does the Central Government investigate into every one of these cases before prosecutions are launched ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : It is the Central Government.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : These applications have been lying with the Government for a considerable time. Will the Government expedite these applications ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : If the Honourable Member will bring to my notice any particular case, I shall have it examined. As far as I am aware there are no such applications.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : There are certain applications under scrutiny and persons have not yet received the amount from the Reserve Bank. They have repeatedly reminded the Department regarding the same.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : If the Honourable Member will supply further particulars, I shall have the matter examined.

APPOINTMENT OF ARMY REORGANIZATION COMMISSION FOR POST WAR INDIAN ARMY

74. *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Defence Secretary please state whether Government propose to appoint an Army Reorganisation Commission to determine the size, composition and organisation of the post war Indian Army ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : No, Sir. Government are at present engaged in examining the problem of the size, composition and organisation of India's Armed Forces in consultation with the H. E. the Commander-in-Chief. Due obviously to the highly complex nature of the problem, I cannot commit the Government to any particular course of action at this stage.

Sardar Mangal Singh : May I know if the Government of India will publish the report of the Army Reorganisation Committee which was appointed two years ago ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : No, Sir. That report is a secret document and it was prepared at the request of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief by his staff officers to assist him in planning the size and composition of the forces and I think this announcement was made previously in this House.

Sardar Mangal Singh : May I know whether this House will be taken into confidence before a decision is taken on the report of that committee ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : Some of the important problems arising out of that report have already been placed before the Defence Consultative Committee and if and when other important problems arise they will also be placed before the same committee, which is a committee of this House.

Mr. Mann Subedar : May I know why this report has not been made available to every member of the Defence Consultative Committee of this House ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I have said that this is a secret report presented to H. E. the C in C who appointed the committee. It was a committee of his staff officers. It was not a committee appointed by the War Department.

Mr. Mann Subedar : The report was made by public servants of this Government and unless there are specific public reasons may I know why the bulk of this report should be kept secret, as there are many members who are very much interested in the problem. If there are a few paragraphs to be omitted, they may be omitted. I want to know why the Government will not make this report available to Members of this House ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I have replied to that question, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether it is the policy of the Government of India not to place these matters regarding Defence, such as, re-organisation, before the Legislature and whether they are going to be content by merely consulting the Defence Committee ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : No, Sir. I should have no hesitation in saying that we wish to take the House in the fullest confidence that is possible consistently with considerations of security, but the report contains many technical matters. It is not considered to be in the public interest to disclose these matters on the floor of the House for the simple reason that such disclosure is not confined only to the Members of this House, because whatever is said here is public property not only in India but throughout the world.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : At what stage the Government of India will place the scheme of re-organisation before the Legislature ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : As I said, the Government have not yet come to a decision as to what the future size and position of the armed forces is going to be.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Has this report been circularised among the members of the Cabinet ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : No, Sir, that question has not arisen yet.

Sardar Mangal Singh : May I ask whether this report deals with the subject of conscription because that was one of the terms of reference ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I must ask for notice of that question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir : Does the Honourable Member wish to convey the idea in his answers to supplementary questions that any re-organisation scheme that the Government may be inclined to accept will never be placed before this Honourable House for discussion and consideration ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I never said anything of that sort.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir : Then what is exactly implied by the Honourable Member's answer ?

Mr. President : Next question. Sardar Mangal Singh.

PERMANENT COMMISSIONS TO INDIANS

†75. ***Sardar Mangal Singh :** (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state how many Indian officers have, so far, been given permanent commissions in the (i) Land forces, (ii) Air forces and (iii) Navy, stating their number separately ?

(b) How many British Officers there are now posted in the Indian Units ?

Shri Sri Prakasa : Sir, that is the sixth question. The Honourable Member has exhausted his quota. He does not know the difference between five and six. He is constantly tabling six questions.

Mr. President : Next question.

(The reply was laid on the table of the House)

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : (a) The number of Indian officers holding permanent commissions in the three Services is as follows

Indian Army	1,701
Royal Indian Air Force	342
Royal Indian Navy	221

The corresponding figures for British officers are—

Indian Army	2,327
Royal Indian Air Force	2
Royal Indian Navy	169

(b) The number of British officers serving temporarily with the three Services is as follows

Army	20,960
Air Force	11
Navy	191

The corresponding figures of temporary Indian officers are—

Army	10,250
Air Force	973
Navy	575

ADMINISTRATION OF THE W A C (I)

76. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Defence Secretary please state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the allegations of inefficiency, discrimination, favouritism, nepotism, immorality, etc that were made during the last budget session of the Assembly by various members through questions and debates regarding the administration of the W. A. C (I),

(b) whether any enquiry, departmental or otherwise, has been or is being or will be made to go into these serious allegations,

(c) how many of the personnel of the Corps have been discharged and how many of such discharged personnel are Indians and how many of them are non-Indians,

(d) how many non-Indians are still in employment in the top posts and why they are still being kept on fat salaries, and why no Indians are employed and kept on such posts, and

(e) what arrangements are being made by the Government of India for finding employment for these discharged girls?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : (a) Yes Sir, but the allegations appear to have been exaggerated

(b) No, Sir, such an enquiry, in view of answer to (d) below, which I shall shortly give would now serve no useful purpose

(c) The total number of WAC(I) personnel released up to 1st September 1946 was approximately 4,106, of these 1,246 were Indians. Further releases are since steadily taking place

(d) The number of officers holding appointments of Senior Commander and above is as follows: Indians, eight; Non-Indians 49. Government have recently ordered that the disbandment of the Corps should be expedited as far as possible. In view of this decision, no change in the existing personnel is considered desirable

(e) (1) Each of the nine Regional Employment Exchanges distributed throughout the country has a Special Women's Section attached to it to deal with the registration and placing in employment of women

(2) A special section of the Directorate of Employment, as a part of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, has been set up to explore and examine suitable avenues of employment for ex-service women

(3) Training facilities have been provided under the Labour Department Scheme for the vocational training of ex-service women in order to equip ex-service women for suitable employment in civil life. To this end, a Deputy Directoress of Training has been appointed on the staff of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (d) of the question, is it not a fact that the Honourable the Labour Member has offered to marry all of these women—not himself—but to suitable husbands? If so, how far has the scheme progressed?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I think the question should be addressed to the Honourable Member for Labour.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member please state the reasons for not going into the question of inquiry which is referred to in (3)?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I said that the Government had decided that the Corps should be disbanded and the last W A C (I) we hope will have been demobilised by the 31st March 1947. In view of this decision, I trust the Honourable Members of this House will not make any comments or any allegations or cast any aspersions on a body of corps which did excellent work during the war.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: But what are the reasons for not going into the question of inquiry?

Mr. President: Because the whole Corps is going to be disbanded by the 31st March.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: But what is the reason for not going into the reasons disclosed?

Mr. President: The question has been answered.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: How many of these discharged girls have been given employment by Government?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I must ask for notice of this question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member consider the question of appointing a Committee of Inquiry consisting of the lady Members of this House with a view to re-consider the question of re-employing those girls who are unemployed at present?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not think the question of re-employment or rather finding employment for demobilised ex-service women in civil jobs need be referred to a committee as the work is already being performed fairly efficiently by the Executive organisation set up by the Labour Department.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member kindly state why non-Indians are still kept in this employment on fat salaries since it is the policy of the Government that the organisation is going to be disbanded?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: As we are going to disband the corps in a few months' time and as the work of the present personnel is satisfactory, it is not necessary nor advisable to disturb the present arrangement.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: May I ask why it is necessary to continue even whatever is left till the 31st March 1947?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Obviously, we must have an organisation to cope with the remaining personnel of the Corps.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I ask if the Deputy Directoress referred to in the answer is an Indian?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I must ask for notice of that question. It does not refer to my Department, it refers to the Labour Department.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask if any of those persons against whom allegations were made that they were responsible for all sorts of indecent attacks on these women are still kept in service?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I cannot give any reply to a question like that because we have never admitted that these allegations which were made by irresponsible agencies were substantially correct.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: They may have been exaggerated statements, but there was some truth in them. Why don't you make inquiries?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: In view of the approaching disbandment of the Corps, it would be impolitic and unwise to raise this whole issue again simply because these allegations were made by a few irresponsible persons.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that one hundred women put their signatures on an article and it was urged on the floor of this House that an investigation ought to be made?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The document to which my Honourable friend refers was never authenticated.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member on what authority he says that these allegations have not been justified?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: An inquiry was made as far as I recollect as to where the document was received, the original document containing the signatures never reached the War Department.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask if the Honourable Member knows that his predecessor himself asked the A.P.I. agent secretly to go and make the investigation, but the lady against whom these allegations were made refused to answer this agent of the A.P.I. and he came back without making any investigation at all?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have no information on that point and I would not accept the insinuation involved in that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask if the All-India Women's Conference did not approach the Government in order to provide them with facilities for making this inquiry? If so, why was it that the Government turned down the request and suggested an authoritative women's organisation in India which was out merely to safeguard the reputation and the well-being of the women?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: A request to that effect was received from the Chairman of the All-India Women's Conference, but I must say again with due deference that as we had taken the decision to disband the whole corps, it was not considered necessary to go into details of certain allegations which were not creditable to certain persons.

CENTRAL SCHEDULED CASTES SCHOLARSHIPS

77.* Lt-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Will the Honourable Member for Education please state—

(a) if it is a fact that converts to other religion from scheduled castes are ineligible for the Central Scheduled castes scholarships awarded by the Government of India,

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are Government aware that the Madras Government categorically stated in the Madras Legislative Assembly during the debate on the Budget on education that converts to other religion from the depressed classes must be eligible for this scholarship as their economic standard did not change with their conversion, and

(c) whether in view of the reply of the Madras Government, the Government of India propose to reconsider the question?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes, it is a fact that converts to other religion from scheduled castes are ineligible for the Central Scheduled castes scholarships awarded by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) The Government of India are aware of the fact that the Madras Government grant scholarships and fee concessions out of the grants provided for depressed classes to members of the depressed classes who are

converts from Hinduism to other religions. The Government of India do not consider that this principle can be applied to the Central Scheduled-Caste-Scholarships scheme in as much as the scheme was devised specifically for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes, as defined in the Government of India (Scheduled Caste) Order, 1936, and was conceived as an uplift measure on the part of the State for the advancement of classes that are treated as untouchable and not as a scheme for all poor classes irrespective of untouchability.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Do I take it that these scholarships awarded by the Government of India are given on the basis of religious belief and not on the basis of economic conditions of the applicant?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have already stated that this scheme is conceived as an uplift measure on the part of the State for the advancement of classes that are treated as untouchable and not as a scheme for all poor classes irrespective of untouchability.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Does a member of the so called scheduled caste become touchable as soon as he becomes a convert to another religion?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I assume so. That is the very claim made by the proselytizers.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: If that is the reason for denying the scholarship to other depressed classes and untouchables, then, will the Honourable Member inform me what are the special tenets of the scheduled caste religion so that they may also become converts to the scheduled caste religion?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The question, Sir, is conceived very wrongly. The assumptions made in the question are not correct at all. There is a certain disability prevailing in certain classes of our society and we are taking measures to remove that disability by direct as well as indirect measures and this is an indirect measure to remove this particular disability. It has nothing whatever to do with the other question referred to by my Honourable friend.

Sri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that if the Honourable questioner's suggestions are followed, there is a danger of a misunderstanding arising to the effect that the Government are favouring conversion, and is there not a further danger that the scholarships will go to the converts rather than to members of the scheduled castes that continue to remain in that old faith. And, if so, will the Honourable Member kindly convey his opinion to the Madras Government so that they may desist from the policy they are following now?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: While the Government are in favour of the most complete liberty of religion and freedom for any legitimate effort on the part of any person or institutions to spread any form of faith or worship, they do appreciate the point brought out by the Honourable Member from Benares as regards misunderstandings about influence exercised for obtaining advantages and facilities for new converts and about disputes likely to arise between the scheduled caste proper and converts from depressed classes. As regards the Madras order, it was specifically related to depressed classes and had nothing to do with scheduled castes whereas the present central scheme with which we are dealing was conceived for scheduled castes only as defined in the Statutory Order referred to. As far as possible this Government should not upset important schemes set in motion by their predecessors after great trouble and in which they had taken considerable interest. In this case, the author of the scheme was very particular about the limitation of the benefits to those falling within the category mentioned.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: What is the difference between depressed classes and the scheduled castes?

Mr. President: That does not arise.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know whether the Honourable Member for Education received advance intimation from the Honourable Member for Benares about his supplementary question because he read a written reply?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Mr President, the question is very inappropriate. I think I am able to anticipate supplementary questions including probably what the Honourable Member for Bombay Southern Mahomedan may put

PROTECTION OF LIVES AND PROPERTIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF THE POPULATION IN BENGAL

78. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether the Government of India have any responsibilities in the matter of protection of lives and properties of the population in Bengal on partial or total failure of the Provincial Civil authority to do so, and how the Government propose to discharge such responsibility?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government of India in this regard in Calcutta, Dacca, Noakhali and other places since the 16th August, 1946, the "Direct Action" day of the Muslim League, where thousands of human lives have been lost and properties worth several crores have been looted and destroyed, if no steps have so far been taken, what steps do Government of India now propose to take? and

(c) Whether he is aware that there is a strong feeling in Bengal that the Government of India should take effective steps to control the situation in Bengal, and if so, whether Government of India propose to take any steps in this regard?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Question No. 69 put by my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal and to what I have stated on the 28th October on the adjournment motion on the subject

RULES re PENSIONS, AWARDS AND GRATUITIES TO INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS

79. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state whether Government are prepared to consider the whole question of pensions, awards and gratuities to Indian Commissioned Officers and Indian Other Ranks and to amend all rules governing such payments?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place in the Library of the House copies of pension regulations of India, Part II and AI (I) B 3/40 and the subsequent amendments thereto?

(c) Is it a fact that no pensions, awards and gratuities are admissible under the present rules in respect of permanent disabilities arising out of the last war, whilst the individuals continues to serve in the army and is permitted to do light duties—in the case of men who have lost a leg, an arm or an eye, all on active service during the war?

(d) Is it a fact that all pensions, awards and gratuities are paid as compensation only for loss of *earning power* and not as compensation for injuries received while on Military Service?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of amending this rule?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) As announced in a press note on the 29th January, 1946, Government have already set up a Committee to make recommendations in regard to the post-war pay and pensions of Indian personnel of the three Services

(b) A copy of Pension Regulations for the Army in India, Part II, with corrections up to date, has been placed in the Library of the House. There is no AI (I.) bearing No. B 3/40

(c) Yes. It is a recognised principle of the pension schemes now in force that an award of pension does not take effect till the claimant leaves the service

(d) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to awards of disability pensions and gratuities. If so, the answer is that the degree of disablement is based on a

comparison between the condition of the person disabled and the condition of a normal healthy person of the same age and sex, without taking into account the earning capacity of the member in his disabled condition in his own or any other specific trade or occupation. Such an award is made to an individual who is invalided from the service on account of wounds, injury or illness, the cause of which is attributed to military service.

(e) No, Sir

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : When was this committee set up ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : In January 1946

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Has it the same status or has it the same personnel as the one which is called the Pay Commission ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : No, Sir

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Who is the President of this committee ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : The President of the committee is Mr Irwin, an officer of the War Department. In reply to questions on this subject a copy of the communique was placed on the table of the House. I will read the communique.

"To make recommendations on the post-war pay, allowances and pensions of the three defence services, the Government of India have constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Mr J B Irwin, CIE, DSO, MC, ICS

"The R I N will be represented on the committee by the Chief of Personnel at N H W, the Army by Maj Gen J B Dalson, and the R A F by the Deputy Air Officer Administration of Air headquarters

"Mr J Dayal, of the Finance Department is the fifth Member. The Secretary to the committee will be Col W Byrne"

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : In view of the change of Government, will the Government review the position and try to include some important Indians so that the entire situation may be reviewed ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I should explain, Sir, that this committee is really in the nature of a technical body examining proposals relating to pay, etc. of the three Services

Mr. Manu Subedar : Have the Government no Indian officers of such standing that they may be included in this committee ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : The committee have already performed a good deal of work and it is expected that as soon as the report of the Central Pay Commission is ready, this committee will co-ordinate their proposals with the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and will submit their report

Mr. Manu Subedar : That does not answer my question. I wanted to know whether there were no Indian officers of the same status as the Britishers who are on this Committee now who can be included and associated, as expressed by the wish of this House, in the work which this Committee is doing ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I shall consider this question

RULES re MILITARY PENSIONS, GRATUITIES, ETC., IN FORCE IN U S A AND BRITISH DOMINIONS

80. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer :** (a) Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to place in the Library of the House, the rules pertaining to military pensions, awards and gratuities in force in the case of the United States of America and British Dominions ?

(b) Is the present state of recruitment in the new Indian Army considered by Government satisfactory ?

(c) Do Government propose to appoint a Committee to consider amendments to pensions, awards to military officers and men in the Indian army so as to induce young Indians to join the army and make it a suitable career in the matter of pay ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : (a) No copy of the rules in force in the U. S. A. and British Dominions is available.

recruitment for admission to the Indian Military Academy as officer cadets is at present not satisfactory, since sufficient suitable candidates have not been coming forward. The whole question of the provision and selection of cadets is now under consideration with a view to ascertaining how the situation can be improved.

Recruitment of I O Rs was reopened in March 1946. For the first three months volunteers were only sufficient to meet approximately 50 per cent of the requirements. Later however, recruitment has been satisfactory and meets all demands except those for the more technical trades which require a higher educational standard.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (a) of his question. I have just answered.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Is it a fact that five thousand Indian officers have been demobilised?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : I cannot give the exact number, but a large number of officers have been demobilised.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Is it a fact that negotiations are at present pending with the War Office to import into India British officers in place of the Indian officers who have been demobilised?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : The implication there is that Government are demobilising officers who are suitable and are trying to bring other officers from outside. The fact is that the officers who are demobilised, as my Honourable friend knows, had enlisted voluntarily and cannot be compulsorily retained in the army. Apart from that fact, a large number of officers who were selected during the war for the grant of emergency commissions are not suitable for permanent commissions in peace time.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : If these officers were perfectly suitable during the war, why are they not suitable now?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : That is because the qualifications required for an officer during war are not necessarily the same as those required in peace.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Have Government made any effort to get men who were temporarily in the army and did good work for five years trained up for the specific jobs for which Britishers are now being imported?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : Government are very seriously and anxiously considering the whole situation as to how best and how quickest the armed forces can be completely nationalised.

Sgt N V. Gadgil : Until Government come to a final decision will Government stop the import of British officers into India?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : No, Sir. While the question is being examined the work must go on, the King's Government must be carried on. And therefore if we cannot get suitable officers at any stage we may perhaps have to fall back upon technical officers whom we cannot get in this country. These officers will only be seconded to the Indian Army.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : Is it a fact that while a large number of emergency commissioned officers are being demobilised there are still advertisements asking young men to apply for commissions in all departments of the army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja : Exactly so. I explained that the officers who are being demobilised are being demobilised in accordance with their age and service groups. As I said, they are all volunteers and they cannot be conscripted in the armed forces. There are others who have applied for the grant of permanent commissions and their cases are duly considered with all sympathy.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : Is it a fact that there is a large number of persons who are now being demobilised because they entered service for a short period but against their wish and in spite of the fact that they had the very best war record? Will the Honourable Member tell me what the advantage is in demobilising these people who wish to remain in the army and not getting them trained while bringing in raw recruits and asking them to apply for commissions?

Mr. G. S. Khajja : I have already answered that question. I know there is a good deal of apprehension on this subject and there is a great deal of feeling on it, that while on the one hand we are demobilising officers we are on the other hand complaining of shortage of officers. But I have tried to explain briefly in reply to the question that the qualifications required for the grant of permanent commissions in peace time are not considered to be necessarily the same as in war by our expert authorities.

INFORMATION RE SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

81. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether Government have any definite evidence that Subhas Chandra Bose is alive?

(b) Have Government's attention been drawn to the announcement by the President of the Forward Bloc that Mr. Bose is about to announce his arrival in Delhi at an early date?

(c) Is it a fact that the present Interim Government propose to keep a Cabinet seat vacant for Mr. Bose?

(d) Have Government received any communication from Mr. Bose during the last few weeks?

(e) Do Government propose to place any information on the subject before this House?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) The question of finding a place for Mr. Bose will arise only if he makes an appearance.

(d) No.

(e) Government have no information to place before the House.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Is it a fact that if he turns up he is going to be appointed Defence Member?

Mr. President : Order, order. Next question.

BROADCASTING STATION AT KARACHI

82. *Seth Sukhdev : Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karachi was to be given a first place in the matter of installation of a Broadcasting Station;

(b) whether it is a fact that necessary budget provision was made as early as 1942-43,

(c) when it is proposed to install such a Station in Karachi; and

(d) whether in view of Karachi being the first air port in India, it is proposed to have a Short-Wave Radio Station at Karachi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Karachi figures in the first instalment of the post-war scheme of broadcasting development in India, which is expected to be finalised in the very near future. It is not possible at this stage to give any definite date by which the new Karachi Station would be installed.

(d) No. For an internal service a short-wave Transmitter is technically not as satisfactory as a medium wave Transmitter. Since Sind primarily needs an internal service, it is not appropriate to instal a short-wave station at Karachi. The fact that Karachi is an air-port has no bearing on the question.

Seth Sukhdev : Is the Honourable Member aware that Sindhi merchant are scattered all over the world and they would naturally like to have news from their home? And is it not therefore necessary to have a powerful station?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: But the short wave will not do for shorter distances and an internal service is more needed in Sind. Reference may be made to the Honourable Member's own letter and the reply given by my predecessor.

WAUGH MISSION TO U. S. A.

83. *Mr. Mannu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state in what terms the purpose of sending the Waugh Mission to U.S.A. was announced (i) in the Assembly and (ii) in the Press Note?

(b) How did this Mission, which had gone to U.S.A. merely to talk about the surplus American stores, come to deal with the whole question of Lease-Lend, Reciprocal Aid and silver?

(c) Is it a fact that the Lease-Lend Settlement between U.S.A. and U.K. took place on the basis of U.K. paying about five per cent, whereas in the case of India it involved the full payment, and what are the exact figures?

(d) If all outstandings in connection with the war were settled by this Mission, how was it that the question of silver was dealt with separately?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 12 of the last Budget Speech and the Press communique issued by the Government of India on the 31st May 1946. It will be observed that it was intended from the very beginning that the Mission should deal with the question of Lease Lend and Reciprocal Aid as well as surplus American War property in India. The Mission was not asked to deal with, nor did it deal with, silver which continues to be covered by separate agreements executed at the time of each deal.

(c) No. I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press communique issued by the Government of India on the 31st May, 1946, and the joint statement issued by the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America in December 1945 which indicate the basis of their respective agreements.

(d) In view of the reply to (a) and (b), it does not arise.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: In view of the improved relation between America and India in the status of their representatives and the fact that many people feel that India has had a very bad deal, will the Honourable Member assure this House that he will take this up and place all the details before the Standing Finance Committee, helped by one or two Members of this House if necessary, and see whether money cannot be yet retrieved from this very disastrous settlement which has been made?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I am afraid I cannot accept the Honourable Member's statement that the deal has been a disastrous one for India.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: Will he then place all the details before the Standing Finance Committee? In particular, will he examine whether in the categories of supplies to the allied armies including Americans themselves, some of the categories which were put in to Lease-Lend and were charged to India were really and properly chargeable? In the interests of India and in conformity with the promise which he made yesterday, will he make serious inquiries into the matter to see whether some money cannot be saved to this country out of this?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The details of this deal are contained in the Appropriation Report of the Defence Department which will be supplied to the Honourable Members shortly, and after that if my Honourable friend wants further information I shall be very glad to discuss the whole matter with him.

Mr. President: Order, order. The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

WAUGH MISSION TO U. S. A. AND THE OBLIGATION TO PAY SILVER IN KIND

84. *Mr. Mannu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether the Waugh Mission to U.S.A. during its stay in Washington made any reference to the Government of India and were the terms fixed by them communicated to the Government of India? If so, when, at what time, by whom and in what terms was the acceptance given on behalf of India?

(b) Why did not the Government of India object to the obligation to pay silver in kind?

(c) Had Government taken any measures subsequently to represent that this could not be done ?

(d) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a copy of the original silver agreement, under which India is called upon to pay ?

(e) What is the total liability, and how do Government propose to meet it ?

The Honourable Mr. Lasaquat Ali Khan (a) The Government of India were kept informed of the progress of the negotiations between the Waugh Mission and the United States Government and the terms of the Agreement were approved by the Government of India before the Agreement was executed

(b) As stated in my reply to the previous question, the Waugh Mission had nothing to do with the silver agreements. The silver transactions, though popularly referred to as Lease/Lend, did not fall under Lease/Lend arrangements. In view of the exchange difficulties, the best way in which the silver could be obtained from United States of America was on replacement basis and silver was loaned by United States of America to all countries on this basis. There was, therefore, no question of objecting

(c) In view of the basis on which the agreement was executed the Government of India could not ask for a change subsequently

(d) No, Sir. There were a number of silver agreements the substance of which is contained in my replies to Questions 84 and 85

(e) 226 million fine ounces. Government have various measures under consideration which it would not be in the public interest to divulge at this stage

PRICE OF SILVER SOLD IN INDIA AND BROUGHT UNDER THE SILVER AGREEMENT DURING THE WAR

85. *Mr. Manu Subedar : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state at what price the silver, which was brought over under the Silver Agreement during the war, was sold in India ?

(b) What happened to the rupee realisations out of such sale ?

(c) What is the figure of the total loss to India if this silver is returned by purchase from the market at the existing rate ?

(d) What was the total amount of unsold American silver left with the Government of India out of the American supply ?

(e) At what rate was it sold, and when ?

(f) Was any of it returned in the form in which it came ?

The Honourable Mr. Lasaquat Ali Khan (a) The average sale price was Rs 127-0-3 per hundred tolas

(b) The rupee proceeds were credited to Central Government and are merged in Government's balances

(c) The question is hypothetical as the silver is returnable to the United States of America within five years from the termination of the period of emergency as declared by the United States President. That declaration has not yet been made

(d) and (f) It would not be in the public interest to disclose the information.

(e) The rate has been stated in answer to (a) above. The sales were made during the period 7th August 1944 to 3rd July 1945

SILVER REALIZED FROM THE WITHDRAWAL OF SILVER COINAGE

86. *Mr. Manu Subedar : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total quantity of silver, which fell into the hands of Government as the result of the withdrawal of subsidiary silver coinage ?

(b) What is the total quantity estimated by Government, which is likely to fall into their hands as the result of the withdrawal of the security-edge rupee ?

(c) How many of these security edge-rupees were issued and was all the silver realised from the withdrawal of the standard silver rupee used up ?

- (d) Was this supplemented by the use of silver from American s
- (e) Have Government taken a decision as to whether the security-edge rupee should be withdrawn ?
- (f) Have Government ascertained public opinion on this subject ? If so, how and through whom, and when do they propose to bring this matter before the Assembly ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (a) I presume that by subsidiary silver coinage the Honourable Member means half and quarter rupee quaternary coins. As these have not yet been withdrawn the question does not arise

(b) This is a hypothetical question on which no opinion can be given.

(c) First part—The total issues of quaternary alloy security-edged rupees upto the 15th October 1946 amount to 106,20,00,638

Second part—Yes, Sir

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) No, Sir

(f) Government have not taken any steps to ascertain public opinion on the subject. If Government decide to take action in this respect legislation will be introduced to mint and issue a new coin

MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ACT

87 *Mr. Manu Subedar (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state when Government propose to modify sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act ?

(b) Are Government aware that a large amount of British capital is being withdrawn from India and converted into sterling independently of the Reserve Bank through Banks ?

(c) What steps do the Government of India intend to take in order to block these capital conversions from rupee into sterling, which are set off against current trade ?

(d) Have Government noticed the increasing movement of Indian funds to the London Stock Exchange, and what steps Government propose to take with regard to this movement ?

(e) Have Government noticed the tendency for increased speculation in exchange and for forward dealings, and what steps Government propose to take with regard to this tendency ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (a) The question of the appropriate time for the modification of Sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act is under the consideration of the Government

(b) The report regarding the acquisition by Indian nationals of British owned undertakings in India show that such withdrawal and conversion is taking place but Government have no information about the amounts involved

(c) Government have not considered it necessary so far to take any such steps but they are watching the situation

(d) Yes, Sir, but it does not appear that the volume of such investments is such as to call for any action on the part of Government.

(e) There has recently been some increase in the demand for ready and forward sterling, but it is understood that this is mainly due to causes referred to in parts (b) and (d), the relaxation of import controls and the improved shipping position. There has also been no corresponding increase in exports to balance the rise in imports. Government have been informed that banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange are providing exchange facilities only for genuine business purposes and are refusing to provide exchange for speculative transactions. The position is being watched but it does not appear that any action on the part of Government is called for at present.

NEW DELHI MUNICIPALITY

88. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state if Government intend to democratise the New Delhi Municipality ? If so, when and how ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam The matter is under consideration and a final decision will be arrived at shortly

BAN ON NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

89 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal - (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether the Interim Government have made enquiries about the reported death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose ? If so, with what results ?

(b) Is there any ban on his return to India ?

(c) Have all the cases pending against him been withdrawn ?

(d) Can he return to India as a free man ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative The second part does not arise

(b) No

(c) The Government of Bengal have been requested to furnish the required information and their reply is awaited

(d) There are no restrictions placed on Mr. Bose

BANNED BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 19 OF SEA CUSTOMS ACT

90 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal Will the Honourable the Home Member kindly state if some books and other publications still remain banned under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act ? If so, what are the names of such books and publications and the reasons for their remaining banned ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Yes Their names are given below They are banned because they are considered to be offensive to Indian political or religious sentiment

1 The Face of Mother India (by Miss Katharine Mayo).

2 Old Soldier Sahib (by Frank Richards)

3 The Land of the Langam (by Arthur Miles).

4 Hindu Heaven (by Max Wyllie).

5 Mysterious India (by Moki Singh)

6 Scented Garden (by Bernard Stern)

7 Britannia & Eve (monthly magazine) for July 1946.

SECURITY FROM THE VANGUARD UNDER PRESS EMERGENCY POWERS ACT

91 *Miss Maibeen Kara Will the Honourable the Home Member please state :

(a) whether Government are aware that an order from the District Magistrate, Delhi, was passed asking the daily *vanguard* and some other papers to show cause why security should not be demanded from them under the Press Emergency Powers Act for having published a news item in its issue, dated September 4th, 1946 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the particular news item was circulated by the Associated Press of America and was substantially a true report of a meeting held in Lahore on 31st August 1946 and

(c) whether Government propose to give an assurance to the House that in future it will be the policy of Government not to interfere with the freedom of the Press ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The policy of Government in regard to the freedom of the Press has been stated in my speech to the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House.

The Honourable Sardar Patel's address to All India Newspaper Editors' Conference on the 13th October, 1946

I welcome the opportunity you have given me to meet the members of your Committee. Most of you, I am glad to say, are not strangers to me, indeed many among you I count as friends.

I am sorry—as doubtless you all are—that Mr S. A. Bielvi, one of your former Presidents, is not here with us today. He has played a worthy part in enhancing the reputation of your profession and in building up the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference. I am sure you will join me in wishing him a complete and speedy recovery.

"Formative Period"

You would naturally like me, on this occasion, to refer to the relationship between the Press and the Interim Government. I may at once say that the Interim Government is most anxious to have the co-operation of the Press in the difficult task that lies ahead of us. We shall scrupulously respect the freedom of the Press, in fact, we shall help it to exercise its legitimate functions, and we have every confidence that the Press, for its part, will assist us in administering the affairs of the country during the strenuous times through which we are passing because of the change over from foreign rule to independence. It will be your responsibility to guide and reflect public opinion during this formative period. I am sure you will discharge it with credit to your calling and benefit to our motherland.

The All India Newspaper Editors' Conference was born at a time and in circumstances which today are only a bitter memory. Faced with an unprecedented invasion of the liberty of the Press by a regime which, in the name of war, forged in an unending chain of restrictions, you got together in 1940 to protect your rights. Intent on suppressing the freedom movement, the Government of the day strove to prevent publicity about the movement and even about the sufferings and sacrifice of the people. I need not recall specific instances, they must be fresh in your minds. The Press resisted, I suppose as well as it could, these inroads into its rights.

"Mutually Beneficial Association"

But all that is now history. Today the situation has radically changed. Foreign rule is about to end. There is now at the Centre a Government which is the forerunner of the fully independent State which we shall soon fashion. You will, therefore, naturally find yourselves in tune with the new set up and I know you will extend to the Government your unstinted co-operation and support in carrying out the task of achieving complete independence without delay.

As one in charge of the Information Department, I look forward to mutually beneficial association with you. I am also responsible for Home affairs. As you are aware, anti-social elements are playing their nefarious trade in certain areas of the country. It is the primary duty of every Government to protect the life and property of the citizen. Our internal political and other differences must be solved not by force or violence but by negotiation and persuasion or, in the last resort, by attrition. The Press has a great and worthy part to play in driving this maxim home to the people.

Responsibility of the Press

The Press must have unfettered freedom in the presentation of news and expression of views, but it also has the obligation to preserve the integrity of the State and support the legitimate activities of a popular Government. It must, when occasion demands, help the Government in defeating the forces of disruption. Negatively as well as positively, the Press should discourage unruly elements.

When feelings run high and tempers are frayed, it is the duty of every responsible person to desist from saying or doing things which are likely to inflame passions. Incitements to violence will, of course, not be tolerated. But there are other forms of writing containing veiled incitement which do great harm. I do hope and trust you will avoid both.

I understand that recently the Central Press Advisory Committee formulated certain suggestions for the guidance of the Press in respect of news and comments on communal disturbances. These are —

1. During riots reports should not contain anything to indicate the community of either victims or assailants.

2. While every endeavour should be made to ensure that reports factually correct and are received from sources known to be reliable, such reports as give details of defiance of the law or are calculated to inflame public feelings or to create communal hatred should be treated with the greatest circumspection.

3. Reports of speeches, statements or news directly inciting people to violence should be avoided.

4. Care should be taken in editorials to avoid expressions calculated to encourage or condone violence or to arouse communal bitterness.

I am not sure that these suggestions fully meet the requirements of the situation, but they are, I think, a step in the right direction, constituting as they do a healthy guide to the Press.

Revision of Press Laws

I notice that you have as an item on your agenda the suggestion that Government should set up a machinery for revision of the Press Laws in the country with a view to bringing them in line with the Press Laws of other free countries. I do not propose to anticipate your discussion. This much I may say on behalf of Government, that they will have no objection to setting up a committee of officials and non officials, including representatives of the Press, with a view to examining the repeal or modification of the laws now in force.

As I said in my opening remarks, I am happy to meet you. You have I expect, a heavy agenda to go through. Any resolutions you put forward will receive our careful and active consideration. The administration of the Press Laws is, as you know, a provincial subject, but there is unlimited scope for co-operation between the Interim Government and the Press in helping to build a new India. I have every hope that the Government and the Press will work hand in hand in that nation-building task.

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

92 *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:- Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the question of abolishing capital punishment is engaging the attention of Government, and

(b) when, approximately, Government are likely to come to decision in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Government are not considering the abolition of the death sentence.

(b) Does not arise.

PUNISHMENTS TO I N A PERSONNEL

93 *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Indian National Army personnel that were arrested and kept in various jails in India;

(b) the number against whom cases were instituted and the nature of punishments that were meted out to them;

(c) the number of persons that are still in prison as (i) under-trials, and (ii) under sentence;

(d) the jails in which they are confined and the classification that is given to them; and

(e) if it is his intention to release any or all of them, and if so, when?

Mr. G. S. Bhalji: (a) The total number of military I N A personnel who were at one time or another detained pending disposal was 16,790.

If, however, the Honourable Member is asking only for the numbers who were arrested in India, the number is very small.

(b) 24 cases were instituted before the fall of Rangoon, the punishments varying from six years' rigorous imprisonment to death. 13 cases were instituted after the fall of Rangoon, the punishments varying from dismissal to 14 years' R. I.

(c) There are no persons now under trial. There are 15 persons serving sentences.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table of the House on the 28th October 1946, giving the information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 779, asked by the Honourable Member on the 8th March 1946.

(e) Court martial proceedings of men undergoing imprisonment are reviewed from time to time and the same procedure has heretofore been followed in the case of I. N. A. personnel. Their cases are due for review shortly.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE OF EX-I. N. A MEN

94. *Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state—

(a) if any restrictions have been placed by the Central Government on the employment of ex-Indian National Army men in public service, and if so, from what particular departments they are banned, and

(b) if Government will consider the desirability of removing the restrictions?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (a) No, Sir No special restrictions on the employment of these persons have been imposed by the Central Government

(b) Does not arise

ACQUIRED LANDS IN BENARES FOR PURPOSES OF WAR

95 *Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) the decision of Government regarding the lands acquired for purposes of war at various places in the district of Benares,

(b) if it was not the intention of Government to restore the lands back to the cultivators, and if there has been any change in this decision, and

(c) if there has been no change, what steps Government are taking for the speedy restoration of these lands?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (a) From part (b) of the question it appears that the Honourable Member refers to requisitions and not acquisitions. Except for two airfields, no land has been acquired in Benares District.

The decision of Government regarding lands requisitioned in Benares District for purposes of War is that they should be returned to their owners.

(b) Government's original intention in the case of lands requisitioned for the establishment of No 2 Reserve Base, Benares, was that they should be acquired, because of the high value of the assets created on them and the heavy cost of restoring the lands to their original condition.

This decision has been changed and orders have been issued for the release of all requisitioned lands except those still required by the Armed Forces.

(c) All lands found surplus to the requirements of the Armed Forces are being released and the release is being speeded up by the decision to dispose of created assets piecemeal without waiting for the complete project to become surplus to Defence Services requirements.

INCOME-TAX ON COMPENSATION FOR LANDS ACQUIRED FOR WAR PURPOSES IN BENARES

96 *Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that agricultural lands were acquired for war purposes by Government in various parts of the district of Benares;

(b) if it is a fact that Government paid an annual compensation for these lands to the tenants,

(c) if it is a fact that the lands now being regarded as non-agricultural, the compensation paid by Government had come to be regarded as subject to income-tax, and

(d) if it is a fact that compensation was paid on the basis of the income of the tenants as being exempt from income-tax; and if so, whether Government propose either to exempt such income from income-tax or pay the tax themselves?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (a) Agricultural lands were not acquired except for two airfields but requisitioned in parts of the Benares District, mainly in connection with the establishment of No 2 Reserve Base Benares.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The income-tax Authorities have, in accordance with the rules governing income from lands temporarily acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, ruled that compensation for lands not used for purposes of agriculture is liable to Income-tax.

(d) Compensation was based on agricultural profits without taking into consideration the payment of Income-tax. Government will examine the whole question.

REMOVAL OF BRITISH SOLDIERS FROM CALCUTTA

97 *Mr. Debendra Lal Khan (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state how many British soldiers were present in Calcutta on and after the 16th of August last?

(b) How many Indian soldiers were present in Calcutta during the aforesaid period?

(c) Has any subsequent reinforcement been sent there afterwards? If so, how many of them were British and how many Indians?

(d) Are the Indian soldiers present in Calcutta considered sufficient to quell the communal disturbances there?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please refer to of the statement given by the Earl of Winterton, ex-Secretary of State for India in the Conservative Party's meeting at Blackpool, alleging "the use of British troops in India as hired mercenaries for quelling communal conflicts", and take steps to remove the British soldiers from Calcutta to some other place?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (a) 3,729 British soldiers were in Calcutta on the 16th of August 1946

(b) On the same date there were in Calcutta 23,383 Indian soldiers

(c) Reinforcements despatched to Calcutta subsequent to the 16th of August 1946, were British soldiers—1,768 (Reduced to 459 on the 25th of August 1946), and Indian soldiers—2,231 (Reduced to 629 on 22nd of August 1946)

(d) The responsibility for quelling communal disturbances rests with the Civil Administration. The number of troops who might be required to aid the civil power can only be a matter of opinion; it is the military opinion that the number of Indian troops at present in the Calcutta area is sufficient.

(e) No, Sir, Government are not concerned with the utterances of individual members of the British Parliament, who have no responsibility in the matter.

DECISIONS OF THE INCOME-TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

98. *Seth Govind Das (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that on account of the provisions of section 54 (1) of the Income Tax Act, the decisions of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal cannot be published and are therefore not available to the assesses for citation or reference?

(b) What steps does he propose to take to help the assesses to know the Tax Law as interpreted by the Appellate Tribunal?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Law Member. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 6th November 1946, when it will be answered by the Honourable the Law Member.

REFUNDS OF INCOME-TAX

99. *Seth Govind Das Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state as to whether he proposes to take steps by legislation, Rules or executive orders, (a) to expedite grants of refunds of Income Tax to assesses and others who are entitled to the same, (b) to provide for stay orders of assessment orders of subordinate officers pending appeals or references to higher authority?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (a) Executive instructions already exist that refunds should be granted as expeditiously as possible and inspecting authorities look into this at the time of inspection and take necessary action.

when they come across refund claim outstanding for more than three months without adequate reasons. The Income Tax Department is also being reorganised as a result of which not only will the strength be greatly augmented but the quality of the officers will also be appreciably improved. This will further help in the reduction of delays.

(b) No, Sir, I consider the discretion that Section 45 of the Income Tax Act gives the Income Tax Officer, to treat a person as not in default as long as appeal filed by him is undisposed of, is adequate.

LIABILITY TO PENAL INTEREST FOR NON-DEPOSIT OF ADVANCE TAX

100. *Seth Govind Das (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Government are aware that the non-deposit of Advance tax in any instalment even due to inability of income tax payers to arrange for the deposit makes him liable to penal interest?

(b) Will he state whether in cases of default as above both penal interest as well as separate penalty to a very great extent under Section 13 (a) and (b) of the Indian Income Tax Act are contemplated under the law?

(c) Do Government propose to remove the ambiguity regarding the application of penal provisions under the "pay-as-you-earn" scheme introduced purely as a war measure?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (a) and (b). I take it that the reference to section 13 (a) and (b) in part (b) of the question is in fact to sub-section (10) of section 18-A of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922. If so, the reply to part (a) of the question is in the negative. As for part (b) only a penalty under sub-section 10 (a) or (b) would be leviable in such cases to the extent warranted by the circumstances of each particular case.

(c) Does not arise.

CLERKS ON MEDICAL LEAVE SUMMONED FOR THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT TEST IN SIND CIRCLE

101. *Seth Sukhdev (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to refer to reply to part (e) of starred question No. 939, dated the 13th March, 1946 in which Government denied that clerks on medical leave were summoned to appear for the Income-tax Department test in the Sind Circle and state whether Government are aware that the Sind Union has represented to the Central Board of Revenue the case of a clerk on medical leave who was summoned to appear for the above test?

(b) If so, why has the affected person not been compensated so far?

(c) Do Government propose to afford relief in this case?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : (a) No representation has been received by the Central Board of Revenue from the Association of the Non-Gazetted Superior Staff, Income-tax Department, Sind and Baluchistan regarding any particular clerk on medical leave who was summoned to appear for the test though it was alleged in general terms that candidates who were on long leave or medical leave were recalled and made to appear at the test.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

POSTS IN THE SIND AND BALUCHISTAN INCOME-TAX OFFICES

102. *Seth Sukhdev (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether posts of Supervisors and Head Clerks have been sanctioned for Sind and Baluchistan Income Tax Offices in the Reorganization Scheme of the Income Tax Department?

(b) If so, why have these not yet been filled up?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that senior Upper Division Clerks in the Income Tax Department in Sind and Baluchistan are performing the duties of Head Clerks on their personal pay?

(d) If the reply to part (c) above is in the affirmative, why is no allowance paid to them for performing the duties of the posts carrying higher responsibilities since January, 1945 ?

(e) Do Government propose to grant necessary allowance to them ?

The Honourable Mr. Laquat Ali Khan : (a) No. The posts of Supervisors and Head Clerks will come into being when full effect is given to the Reorganisation scheme.

(b) Does not arise in view of my reply to part (a)

(c) Senior clerks in the Upper Division scale sanctioned with effect from the 1st January, 1945, *in lieu* of the pre-existing scales of Senior clerk and First Grade clerk, are doing the work of the pre-existing Senior clerks, not Head clerks.

(d) and (e) Since the Upper Division scale is better in the later stages than the pre-existing Senior Clerk's scale, the question of giving the Upper Division Clerks any allowance while performing the duties previously done by the senior clerk does not arise.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BHORE COMMITTEE REPORT

103. *Mr. Madandhari Singh : Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement indicating the action that has been taken or is proposed to be taken on the principal recommendations of the Bhore Committee Report ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulmam : A statement is laid on the table.

Statement indicating the action taken on the principal recommendations of the Bhore Committee's Report.

1 Recommendations relating to—

- (a) the objectives suggested by the Committee,
- (b) district health organisation,
- (c) Central and Provincial boards of health and health councils,
- (d) the amalgamation of the medical and Public Health Departments,
- (e) water supply and sanitation,
- (f) anti malaria measures,
- (g) quinine production, and
- (h) the Indian systems of medicine, were discussed at a meeting of Provincial ministers held on the 10th to 12th October and copies of the resolutions passed are attached to this statement. Other recommendations are referred to below.

2 *Professional education*—The recommendations of the Committee have been referred to the Indian Medical Council for their opinion.

3 *Regulation of the dental, pharmaceutical and nursing professions*—Proposals for legislation for the regulation of the dental profession have been prepared and sent to Provincial Governments for their views. Legislation for the regulation of the pharmaceutical and nursing professions has been introduced in the Legislature.

4 *Training of personnel*—(a) 54 students have been selected for advanced training abroad and arrangements for placing them in institutions in the United Kingdom and United States of America are in progress. Candidates are also being selected for higher dental training and training in industrial hygiene and nutrition.

(b) It has been decided to convert an American hospital at Calcutta into a temporary college for giving degree courses to medical licentiates from all parts of India.

(c) A College of Nursing has been established at Delhi to provide higher training for nurses.

(d) The staff of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health has been increased to provide for 60 public health students a year and other specialised courses.

(e) The Malaria Institute is being expanded to provide increased facilities for training and research.

5 *All India Medical Institute*—The Committee's recommendation has been accepted in principle and a Committee is to be appointed to advise the Government on the steps to be taken to establish the institution.

6 *Medical Research*—The recommendations of the Committee have been referred to the Indian Research Fund Association for their views.

7 *Bureau of standards*—A bureau of standards for medical institutions has been set up. The bureau will supply model type designs for hospitals to Provincial Governments and serve generally as a clearing house for information relating to the design and equipment of medical institutions.

8 Other recommendations are under consideration.

Statement showing Resolutions of the Health Minister's Conference on certain recommendations of the Health Survey and Development Committee

Resolution 1

OBJECTIVES

"The Conference endorses the objectives proposed by the Bhore Committee as objectives to be kept in view in formulating plans for a national health service"

Resolution 2

DISTRICT HEALTH ORGANISATION

The Conference considers that the District Health Organisation proposed is administratively sound and acceptable in principle. The programme for the first five years is not within present financial resources but it is agreed —

Firstly, that the scheme should be implemented on as wide a scale as possible consistent with financial limitations, taking full advantage of existing institutions and staff,

Secondly, that modifications in the scheme may be made where necessary to adapt it to local conditions,

Thirdly, that in areas where the full organisation cannot be set up immediately, schemes for development should be framed with due regard to the objective of building up a curative and preventive health service on the general lines recommended by the Committee,

Fourthly, that each Province should review its plans with these considerations in view

Resolution 3

THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR THE TRAINING OF MEDICAL AND OTHER PERSONNEL

The conference agrees that a review of training facilities in the light of probable future requirements should be undertaken and that particular emphasis should be laid on the training of personnel. It also agrees that as far as possible, the larger provinces should assist those provinces which have not yet been able to provide their own training facilities by admitting students to their training institutions.

Resolution 4

CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL BOARDS OF HEALTH AND HEALTH COUNCILS

The Conference agrees that Boards of Health and Councils of Experts should be constituted at the Centre and in the Provinces. It considers that representatives of the Central Legislature should be included in the Central Board of Health, that the constitution of the Provincial Boards should be left to the discretion of the Provincial Governments and that the health experts of the Central and Provincial Governments should attend the Central Board of Health. The Conference also considers that the functions of the Central Board and Council should be purely advisory.

Resolution 5

THE AMALGAMATION OF THE MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

The Conference accepts the principle of amalgamation of medical and public health departments and considers that the amalgamation should take place when a suitable opportunity occurs.

The Hon'ble Ministers from Madras and Bombay, dissented from this view. The Hon'ble Minister from Madras considered that coordination between the two departments was preferable to amalgamation.

Resolution 6

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

The Conference agrees —

(1) that an active programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in both urban and rural areas should be undertaken,

(2) that in respect of water supply the objective should be to provide at least 50% of the population with a safe and abundant water supply within a period of not more than 20 years and the entire population within not more than 35 years.

(3) that in urban areas the objective should be to instal adequate sewerage in all towns with a population of 50,000 or over during the first 10 years,

(4) that the constitution and functions of provincial water and drainage boards should be left to the discretion of Provincial Governments

Resolution 7

ESTABLISHMENT OF ANTI-MALARIA ORGANISATIONS

The Conference agrees

- (1) that a vigorous drive against malaria should receive priority in development programmes;
- (2) that, subject to adaptation to suit local conditions, anti-malaria organisations should follow the general frame work of the organisation proposed by the Bhore Committee,
- (3) that anti-malaria personnel trained in the Defence Services should be utilised to the fullest possible extent

Resolution 8

THE POLICY IN REGARD TO QUININE AND OTHER ANTI-MALARIA DRUGS

The Conference agrees that quinine production should be continued and developed up to about 200,000 lbs a year, subject to review from time to time. It was also agreed that the views expressed by the Provincial Ministers on the subject of a guarantee to the producing provinces should be further considered by the Government of India in consultation with Provincial Governments

Resolution 9

I. In accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Committee, this Conference resolves that adequate provision should be made in the Centre and the Provinces—

(a) for research in and the application of the scientific method for the investigation of the indigenous systems like Ayurveda and Unani with references to (1) maintenance of health and (2) prevention and cure of disease

(b) for starting schools and Colleges for training for diploma and degree courses in Indigenous Systems of Medicine

(c) for post graduate courses in Indian Medicine for graduates in Western Medicine

II In accordance with Resolution No 13 National Planning Committee this Conference resolves to absorb the practitioners of Ayurvedic and Unani Systems of Medicine into the State Health Organisation by giving them further scientific training wherever necessary as health personnel, like doctors, physical training experts (Ustads), Sanitary staff, masseurs, nurses, midwives, etc

III. This Conference resolves that, in the Central Council and Provincial Health Boards and Councils the departments and practitioners of Indian Medicine should be given due representation, wherever possible

DETENUS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BRITISH INDIA PRICEDS

104. *Mr. Madandhari Singh. Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the number of detenus or political prisoners kept in the various prisons of British India and the reason for their detention?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to question No 68 put by the Honourable Mr. Sanyal on the same subject. The Government of India are concerned only with those detained under the orders of the Government of India

STEPS TO INCREASE THE PURCHASING POWER OF PAPER RUPEE

105. *Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad : Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay on the table of the House a statement about the steps he has taken or is contemplating to take to increase the purchasing power of the paper rupee?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : I do not accept the implied suggestion that paper rupee has a different value than the metallic rupee. As regards the purchasing power of the rupee, Government have continued the various anti-inflationary measures mentioned in the budget speeches and answers to previous questions in the House. Government are aware of the persistence of the inflationary trend in spite of a reduction in currency and increase in imports and have under consideration further measures for checking this tendency.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SEPARATION OF JUDICIARY FROM THE EXECUTIVE

16. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Government are considering taking steps for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive ;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the large volume of public opinion in favour of such separation as expressed in the Press, on the platform of various conferences and on the floor of the Provincial and Central Legislatures from time to time over years and years, and

(c) the difficulties, if any, in effecting such separation immediately or in the very near future ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : Not only are Government aware of, but they are in sympathy with, the public demand for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. The matter is, however, mostly the concern of the Provincial Governments, the Central Government are only responsible for the Chief Commissioner's Provinces. As has been pointed out by Ministers concerned in some of the Provinces, there are constitutional difficulties in the way of implementing this reform in our administrative system at present. These difficulties, we hope, will disappear shortly when the control of the Secretary of State over the services in India is terminated. It would then be possible to examine the problem in all its rather complicated details and review what changes in the criminal law of the country would be necessary. It is also a matter for some consideration whether the questions should not await the determination of the future constitutional structure of this country.

TABOO OF THE WORDS 'JAI HIND' IN THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES

17 Mr. Debendra Lal Khan Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state whether it is a fact that the words "Jai Hind" which are freely used even by the members of the Interim National Government, are tabooed in the Indian Army, Navy and the Air Forces ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja, No, Sir But the Army has its own slogans in peace and war which have been in vogue for decades past and no change is contemplated in current usages.

SHORT TERM PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BHORE COMMITTEE

18 Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state

(a) what short term plan has been adopted for implementing the recommendations of the Bhore Committee which has submitted a comprehensive report upon the problem of Health in Rural India,

(b) how, financially and organisationally, Government propose to co-ordinate the scheme between the Centre and Provinces, and

(c) whether the matter has been placed before the Standing Committee for Health, and when the said Committee met last ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsmann : (a) No uniform short term plan has yet been adopted. The Bhore Committee's Scheme for a district health organisation in the rural areas was considered at a Conference of provincial ministers held on the 10th to 12th October and the Conference was of the opinion that although the scheme was acceptable in principle, it was not within present financial resources. The Conference, however, agreed that the schemes already prepared by Provincial Governments should be reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the Committee with the object of gradually building up a health service on the lines suggested by the Committee.

(b) The Central Government has agreed to make annual block grants for development to Provincial Governments. The grants will be subject to the conditions contained in the Planning and Development Department letter, No 82/RC, dated the 18th April of which a copy is laid on the table of the House. In addition to financial assistance the Central Government will provide facilities of mutual consultation and will make available expert advice to Provincial Governments.

(c) The matter has not yet been placed before the Standing Committee for Health, which has not yet met, but it is proposed to call a meeting during the present session.

No 82/RC.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Secretariat, North Block,
New Delhi

Thd 16th April, 1946

FROM

T M S MANI, Esquire, O.B.E., I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

TO

ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

SUBJECT —Provincial five year plans—Central grants formulation of a concordat

SIR,

The Government of India, having now completed, for all practical purposes, the scrutiny of interim plans forwarded by Provincial Governments, propose to address themselves to a review of five year plans. For this purpose, it is necessary to formulate, more definitely, agreed principles to be observed in finalising the five year plans and for determining the form in which the Central grants should be made and the conditions to which they should be subject. While the Government of India have no intention of interfering with the detailed execution of schemes, the Provincial Governments will doubtless agree that a certain degree of Central co-ordination of the Provincial plans is essential not only in view of the all-India nature of the problems, but of their magnitude which necessitates substantial financial aid from the Centre in the shape of grants and loan money. Then again the Central Legislature will naturally demand, before voting considerable grants, that they are utilised for development purposes in accordance with approved policies and plans. The Government of India have examined the question in the light of these general considerations and have arrived at the following provisional conclusions.

2. As regards the financial basis of the plans, for the present, the Government of India propose to scrutinise the financial feasibility of the Provincial five-year plans on the basis of this department letter No 82/RC dated the 9th January, 1945, in which the Provinces were asked to assume, for the purpose of planning, that approximately one half to two-thirds of the total estimated Central surplus of 500 crores would be available for distribution. No closer estimate is yet possible. As regards distribution, Provinces were asked to assume that this would be done on the basis of population strengths, subject to special consideration being given to the poorer Provinces and those affected by enemy action. The Government of India are now disposed to think that this is not altogether appropriate and wish to examine whether a scheme more on the lines of the Australian system would not be more suitable for achieving reasonably equal standards of social and cognate services in the different Provinces. In this connection, a reference is invited to para 33 of the Hon'ble the Finance Member's last budget speech. As it will be some time, however, before a final decision is reached, and as it is necessary in the meanwhile to proceed with the examination of Provincial five-year plans, the Government of India propose that the review should be conducted on the provisional basis already indicated.

3. As regards the detailed schemes it is proposed that the Provincial plans should be examined in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerned with a view to ensuring broadly that the development is reasonably well-balanced as between different heads of development, having regard to all-India policies and the total resources expected to be available. For the purpose of this analysis, it is suggested that the main heads might be as follows:—

(i) Multi-purpose waterways, irrigation, and power development (this head would include major irrigation and hydro electric power schemes and also thermal power schemes)

(ii) Agriculture and kindred subjects including minor irrigation and forests

(iii) Education

(iv) Health

(v) Roads

(vi) All other subjects.

It appears unnecessary to the Government of India for the purposes of their analysis to have a larger number of main heads

4 As regards the grants it is the intention of the Government of India that for the purpose^s of budgeting and accounting, they should make annual block grants to the Provinces. These grants will however be deemed to have been distributed over the different main heads referred to in para 3 above in the proportion which the estimated development expenditure under each head bears to the total of all the development expenditure under the 5-year plan of the province. (Productive expenditure, e.g. under heading (5) which should be financed from loan money will be excluded for the purpose of grants). Thus, for example, if the expenditure on education in an approved Provincial plan where 15% of the total expenditure on all subjects, then 15% of the Central grant will have to be regarded as allotted to the subject. Similarly as regards other subjects. Only a separate *pro forma* account will need to be kept for this purpose.

5 Having regard to the considerations stated in para 1, the Government of India propose that the grant attributable to each main head should be subject to the following broad conditions —

(i) That the schemes under each head form part of a policy or plan approved generally by the Government of India and have been scrutinised adequately both administratively and financially and sanctioned by the competent Provincial authority before they are executed, and that adequate steps have been taken to ensure administrative and technical efficiency in their execution.

(ii) Information should be supplied by the Provincial Government as required by the Government of India, regarding the details of schemes falling under the head in question.

(iii) Facilities should be given to the representatives of the Government of India to keep in touch with development and the progress of schemes, should they so desire.

(iv) An annual report of the progress made in the execution of the schemes should be made^o available to the Government of India.

(v) Major variations in schemes should be notified in advance to the Government of India.

(vi) In special cases the Government of India may attach specific conditions to individual schemes.

The Government of India would also stipulate that the financial resources of the Province are adequately exploited and safeguarded and that in important matters of all-India policy, the Province should not do anything to impede development on the lines approved by the Government of India with the concurrence of the majority of Provinces.

If it is found that the conditions referred to above are not observed in any important particular, the Government of India would reserve the right to make such reductions in the grant as they may consider justifiable in the circumstances.

6 The Government of India trust that Provinces will agree that the conditions stipulated above are no more than necessary to enable them to discharge their responsibility, which is to see that the very large sums voted by the Central Legislature are spent effectively and in accordance with approved plans. I am to request to be informed at a very early date whether the Provincial Governments are agreeable to these proposals.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) T M S MANI.

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Copy forwarded for information to all Departments of the Government of India (except Legislative, Legislative Assembly and Political Departments).

(2) Secretary C C C

(3) Secretary G G (Public) and Reforms Commissioner

REPORT ON THE COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN BENGAL

19 Mr. K. C. Neogy. Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the purport of any representations or reports that may have been addressed to him in his official capacity or received in his Department dealing with the communal disturbances that broke out in Bengal on and after the 16th August last, indicating in each case the action taken thereon?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Many representations have been and are being received but no action could be taken on them in view of the constitutional position, of which the Honourable Member is no doubt aware.

SUBSIDIZED HOUSING SCHEMES BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

20 Mr. K. C. Neogy Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to refer to paragraph 32 of the Budget Speech made on the 28th February, 1946, by the then Finance Member and lay on the table of the House a statement showing, Province by Province, the Labour Departments subsidised housing schemes and, the amount of subsidy paid or promised by the Central Government and the progress made in each case?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : Owing to the continuance of very high building costs there has so far been little response to the offer mentioned in paragraph 32 of the Budget Speech and no subsidies have yet been paid under the terms of that offer. The question is being further discussed with the Provincial Governments.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE BUILDING ACTIVITIES

21 Mr. K. C. Neogy Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to the Budget Speech made on the 28th February, 1946, by the then Finance Member in which proposals for assisting and stimulating private building activity were made, and special steps indicated as being taken to increase allocations of coal for the burning of bricks and release of timber, cement and steel, and to relax controls over these materials and to extend production capacity, and lay on the table of the House a statement showing Province by Province, the progress made, or expected to be made in this matter during the year, as well as the nature of the action taken in the various directions indicated in the said speech, and the result achieved therefrom?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : This question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 6th November 1946 when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for the Industries and Supplies.

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT AT SHORT NOTICE

22. Mr. K. C. Neogy (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to refer to paragraph 31 of the Budget Speech made on the 28th February, 1946 by the then Finance Member and lay on the table of the House a statement showing, Province by Province, the approved development schemes intended to create employment which could be started at short notice, indicating the funds provided by the Central Government for carrying out each such scheme during the current year?

(b) What conditions, if any, have been imposed on the provision of funds to the Provincial Governments in this matter by way of administrative or financial control or supervision, and to what extent are such conditions being actually carried out?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : (a) As was stated in the Budget Speech a lump sum provision of Rs. 35 crores was made in the current year's budget for payments to provincial Governments in respect of non-productive development schemes and a provision of Rs. 15 crores was made for loans to Provinces for productive development works. Out of the provision of Rs. 35 crores the Provincial Governments will be paid the amounts actually spent during the current financial year on approved schemes. Large numbers of schemes have been approved for each Province, but the approved lists include schemes relating to all the main development subjects and are not confined to schemes intended to create employment. The complete list of approved schemes for any Province will be supplied to the Honourable Member if he so desires,

(b) No conditions have been imposed in respect of the funds to be provided during the current financial year since the schemes have been approved individually by the Government of India and payment is to be made only on the basis of the actual expenditure reported by the audit officers concerned.

SUBVENTIONS, LOANS OR ADVANCES PAID TO BENGAL GOVERNMENT BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR FAMINE, ETC

23 Mr. K. C. Neogy (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the amounts that have been paid to the Government of Bengal from the Central Government funds, year by year, since 1943 by way of subvention, loan or advance, respectively, for meeting Provincial expenditure on famine relief or allied objects?

(b) Has any similar amount been granted to any other Province in recent years?

(c) What conditions, if any, were imposed on the provision of financial assistance to the Government of Bengal in this matter by way of administrative or financial control or supervision, and to what extent have such conditions been actually carried out?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : (a) The following special payments were made to the Government of Bengal in connection with the famine

	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46
	(In lakhs of rupees)		
(a) Subvention	3,00	7,00	8,00
(aa) Loans			
(aaa) Advances			
Total	3,00	7,00	8,00

(b) No

(c) No conditions were imposed

PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) RULES 1946—LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : (Finance Member) Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Public Debt (Central Government)* Rules, 1946 published in the Finance Department Notification No F 9 (1)B/46, dated the 12 Noon 20th April, 1946 under sub-section (3) of Section 28 of the Public Debt (Central Government) Act, 1944

INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the Legislative Business, i.e., the motion of the Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram to refer the Indian Trade Unions Act to the Select Committee as proposed by him yesterday

In this connection I find that a circulation motion has been given notice of late last evening. I shall allow the Honourable Member if he wishes to move that motion to do so after Prof Ranga has finished his speech on the subject, but I may just request members to be so good as to give notice in due time and not so late as that. Unless notices are received in proper time, I do not propose to exercise my discretion of allowing such motions notices of which are given at the last moment. Prof Ranga may now address the House keeping in mind that this motion is coming before the House.

Prof N G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) Yesterday before the House rose I was saying that this Bill has been conceived in the interest of Indian industrial labour and that those of us like Dr Zia Uddin who claims to speak in favour of our labour ought to support this Bill instead of opposing it in toto. I would also like to add that those other Honourable Members who may be in favour of this motion for circulation will not be serving the cause of labour but will be, on the other hand, harming the cause of Indian labour.

* Not printed in these Debates, copies placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Rural) **Muhammadian**
Rural) How?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is quite easy for any one to see that when Indian labour is so very weak as to come to be in need of a Bill like this for the recognition of their trade unions, then it must mean that it is already too late to provide them at least this minimum of protection. They want this protection. It is not for people like my Honourable friend, Dr. Zia Uddin, to say whether Indian labour wants this protection or not. Indian labour has repeatedly demanded this protection. It has been doing so for the last 25 years, or even more. The mere fact that in England a Bill like this has not been found to be necessary and that in England the English Trade Unions have been able to get on without a law like this whereas our Indian labour has come to be in need of it, shows the very urgency for passing this particular Bill into an Act and affording this much of protection at least to our industrial labour.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: But it does not go far enough.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My Honourable friend says that it does not go far enough. He wants something more and his way of giving our Indian labour something more is by delaying the passage of this Bill. This is an extraordinary piece of logic which I am not able to follow, and with which I am certainly not in agreement. Therefore, I hope that the House will not favour this motion for circulation and that the House will support the commitment of this Bill to the Select Committee at the earliest possible opportunity.

I wish to refer only to a few points relating to some of the clauses of this Bill. Sir, I am wholly in agreement with the proposed clause 28 (b) in which it is stated that the industrial courts shall consist of one or more persons each of whom is qualified for appointment as a Judge of a High Court. It is a very good provision indeed, but the only remark that I wish to offer is that such a court should not consist of only one member at any time, but should on the other hand have the representatives of both the employers and the employees in addition to an appointed officer of the status of a judge of a High Court. Otherwise a court like this will not be able to discharge the functions which it is expected to discharge.

Then there is clause 28 (c). I have grave doubts in regard to the advisability of this clause. According to this, if there is any private agreement between an employer and a trade union, then immediately the trade unions will be able to achieve the status of a recognized trade union. All that has got to be done is to get that particular agreement registered with the Industrial court. I would like to know whether in addition to their agreement between themselves, *i.e.*, the employer on the one hand and the trade union on the other, this particular trade union has to satisfy the conditions prescribed for recognition in clause 28 (d). If any trade union comes to be recognized merely because it is able to win the consent or the support of the employer without having to satisfy the conditions prescribed in 28 (d) then I am afraid it is going to be very much against the workers because many L. O. Unions can come to be floated by employers and can come to be recognized by them through a sort of an agreement and can then be expected to enjoy all the privileges of a recognized union to the detriment of the properly organised and developed trade unions of workers. Therefore, Sir, there seems to be some inconsistency between these clauses 28 (c) and 28 (d). Some improvement has got to be made in the Select Committee in order to rectify this particular error and I would like the Select Committee to consider the advisability of renumbering them—28 (d) as 28 (c) and 28 (c) as 28 (d),—so that this doubt might be removed and instead of the agreement that might come to be concluded between the employers and the trade union, a trade union before it could be recognized would have to satisfy the conditions prescribed for recognition. Coming to clause 28F, it is stated that if the employer has arrived at a conclusion after previous discussions with the executive of a trade union, then it will not be possible for the trade union and its executive to start correspondence over such a question within at least six months. I would like it to be stated that the employer when he arrives at a

[P. of N. G. Ranga]

conclusion should take care to notify the Trade Union that he has reached that conclusion and what that conclusion is so that the Trade Union would know at what stage a conclusion has been reached and what that conclusion actually happens to be.

There is one very good feature in this, and I am afraid it is because of it that this motion for circulation seems to have been inspired and that is to be found in one of the conditions mentioned for recognition in clause 28D 'that its rules do not provide for the exclusion of members on communal or religious grounds.' This is a very salutary provision. It is most essential that this communalism should not be allowed to become a canker even in trade union ranks, and I am glad, Sir, that the predecessor of the present Labour Member had taken a very strong stand in regard to this, and I am glad also that the present Member has seen fit to retain this particular provision in this Bill. It is most essential that trade unions should be non-communal and every trade union should be so democratically organized that all the workers professing different religions would be entitled to join the trade union and derive the benefits therefrom.

Therefore, there is nothing wrong. It does not say that either the Hindus or the Muslims or the Christians or any other religious group should not have a Union consisting predominantly of members of their own religion, but it does maintain that no union should debar the members of any one particular religion merely because they happen to belong to that religion. I know on the Continent of Europe there is this particular difficulty of religion in trade unionism. There are the Catholics there who have formed their own trade union, but they have taken care in many countries to throw open their ranks to other people also and to people of other religious denominations. Where they do so, they do not go to the State to ask for recognition. But where a trade union seeks the recognition of the State and through the good offices of the State the recognition of the employer, it must take care to see that its ranks are thrown open and its doors are thrown open to people of all religions and only to people of one religion. Therefore even more for this purpose of making out trade unions as far as possible denominational or cosmopolitan, I am in favour of this Bill. I hope Sir that the House will have no hesitation whatsoever in sending this Bill to the Select Committee and will reject this motion for circulation.

Haji Abdus Sattar **Haji Ishaq Seth** (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, I move

That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1947.

I want to make it quite clear at the very outset that we in this Party are completely and wholeheartedly in favour of all the provisions in the Bill except one. This Bill has a long history behind it. It was introduced more than once in this House but could not be proceeded with because of the very strong opposition that the Muslim League Party had against this provision and also because in the earlier stages the labour representatives in this House used to take strong objection to certain provisions of this Bill. Even last session, Dr Ambedkar was very anxious that he should proceed with this Bill but the Government found that the opposition both from labour quarters and from Muslim League was so strong that they thought it was not advisable to proceed with it. Now there is a new Government and a new Honourable Member in charge. I do not know whether they have applied their minds to all the provisions of this Bill. What I guess has happened is that they found a ready-made Bill in their hands and they have come up before this House.

I will first speak on the necessity for circulation. A Bill almost identical with this was circulated and opinions were elicited and I have this file of opinions that was received. I am bringing this to the notice of this House to prevent the Honourable Member from stating that I kept this matter back. The Bill was circulated. Many of the opinions make a complaint of the fact that the time allotted for expressing their opinions was very short. In some cases it was a matter of three days. There is a letter from the United Planters'

Association, South India, Coonoor. They had about four to eight days within which to express their opinion and they refused to do so. Then there is the Cochin Chamber of Commerce. They also refused to express their opinion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) How many expressed their opinions?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth What I want to point out is that the time given was very short and it was not possible for employers of labour and even for labour organisations, to express their opinions. Here is one from the Provincial Trade Union Congress, Madras. They say (their Secretary writes)

"I wish to state that it is not possible for this Union as a whole to formulate their views within the time specified to you, i.e. 15th February, 1944."

Therefore any case for circulation is very strong.

Before proceeding, I want to answer my friend, Prof. Ranga. In moving this motion I do not want to create any hindrance or obstruction in the smooth passing of the Bill. The House will observe that the date I have given has been very carefully chosen. My motion requires that opinions should be available to this House before the 28th February so that the Government, if they choose can proceed with the Bill in the next session of this Assembly. As a matter of fact, I do not think they can finish all the stages of this Bill in this session. Probably the Select Committee will meet during the session and the final stages will have to be gone through in the next session, and I am not trying to hinder that programme. According to the date that I have fixed, the final stages can be finished in the next session. Therefore the charge that we in this Party wish to block the progress of the Bill is not substantiated. I know that at this stage I will not be permitted by you to go into the details of the provisions of this Bill. But there is a provision which has been all along opposed by our Party, and that is sub-clause (c) of Clause 28D which provides that a union shall not be entitled to recognition under this Act unless it fulfils the following conditions

(c) "that its rules do not provide for the exclusion of members on communal or religious grounds,"

In short, the idea is that communal unions or unions confined to certain communities or followers of certain religions should not be recognised at all. My friend Prof. Ranga thinks that this is a very salutary provision. He is entitled to his opinion and I am entitled to mine. I do not wish to provide that there should be communal unions. I do not say that there shall be unions confined to communities or followers of particular religions. What I want to state is that it should be possible for unions to be formed, if labourers so desire, confining them to communities or societies. I do not see why the liberty of labour to organise themselves in whatever form they desire should be curtailed. What is the necessity for it?

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official) On a point of order is the Honourable Member speaking on the merits or demerits of the Bill or is he speaking on his amendment?

Mr. President: He is speaking on both.

Miss Maniben Kara: He said in his opening remarks that he was restricting himself to his amendment.

Mr. President: He is speaking on both. Even on the amendment he seems to be in order.

Haji Abdul Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Our demand that recognition should be granted to labour unions which are confined to Muslims alone has been a long standing one. In this House as far as I can remember a resolution was moved by our party. It was no doubt negatived but we were very vehement in support of that resolution. Then in 1943 my Honourable friend Mr. Muhammad

[Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth]

Nauman moved a cut motion on the Railway Budget, the subject matter of that motion being that recognition should be granted to Muslim labour unions formed under the Railway. There is nothing new in this demand that we are making today. This has been the stand of the Muslim League. It has been the stand of Muslim labour even outside this House and it is a fact that a number of Muslim labour unions have been formed and are working. I will remind Honourable Members of a statement made by the General Manager of the South Indian Railway in the course of the recent strike that took place there. He particularly mentioned the Muslim Labour Union as being against that strike and taking no part in it. That will show that there are Muslim labour unions which are influential enough to take decisions and to make their decisions felt. I do not see why we in this House should go out of our way to curtail this activity that they have.

Again, to answer my friend Prof. Ranga, when a section of labour wants to organise itself separately there must be some reason for it. Prof. Ranga appears to think it a sacred principle that there should be no communal union. Prof. Ranga must realise that if a section of labour decide to organise separately there must be sufficient reason for it. When they do it who are we or who is my friend Prof. Ranga to say Nay to them. He has not really advanced any arguments for the strong opinion that he has expressed against these sectional unions.

To save another point of order from my Honourable friend Miss Kara I will not go into very great details. I only want to say that our feeling, the feelings of the Muslims both inside and outside this House are very strongly in favour of forming Muslim labour unions. The labour unions if they are confined only to labour matters we can understand them but the labour unions go out of their way. They do take part in other matters also. For instance here is a press cutting from the Free Press Journal dated the 30th April. It contains a report of a meeting of the Central Executive of the B. B. C. I. Railway Labour Union. (Interruption.) It has something to do with labour. Along with the resolution pertaining to their own grievances there is a resolution on the political situation and that resolution generally favours the Congress standpoint. There are a number of Muslim labourers employed by the B. B. C. I. Railway and I am sure many of them must be feeling not quite in accord with the Congress opinion. This resolution which they have passed is supposed to be the resolution of the Union which includes Muslim labourers also. What is the way out for them? Will my friend Prof. Ranga tell me? How can those Muslim labourers who are not of this view express their opinions? (Interruption by Prof. Ranga.) That is one point. When Muslim labour wants to organise itself separately there must be sufficient reason for it. As a matter of fact the experience in this country has been so bitter sometimes. Our experience in this very House with regard to our employees under the Railways, under the Government of India and under so many other establishments, and our special grievances with regard to our peculiar needs in respect of promotion for Muslims, conditions of enrolment and so on are such that they receive scant attention at the hands of joint labour unions. That is why we are for separate labour unions. As a matter of fact there is a strong Muslim Employees Association working in Delhi in connection with the Government Railways. It is a strong and well organised body and it has branches in Calcutta and Madras. There is a branch for the South Indian Railway. All these are working and they have shown that there is need for their existence. I do not see any reason why we should today in this House make a statutory provision that such labour unions shall not exist and if they exist they shall not be recognised. So far the law has not said anything. It is the policy of the Government not to recognise sectional labour unions. This is what they have said in reply to many questions and debates in this House. But that is a different matter. Today we are making a statutory provision. We provide by law that such labour unions shall not exist. I do not think that any of us on this side of the House would agree to this and I therefore strongly object to this provision.

There is only one point more and that is this. This new Government was finally formed only last week. I do not think that all the members of the Government sat together and discussed this matter. Therefore, all the more reason why a little time should be given, so that the members of the government should sit together and formulate their policy. My motion will help towards that. For these reasons I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House and I move it.

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

‘That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th February 1947’

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill which has been sponsored by the Honourable Labour Member. As a matter of fact this Bill was circulated as far back as 1941 (*An Honourable Member* ‘The same Bill’). Yes. It was circulated for eliciting opinions. Certain useful suggestions were made by various labour organisations to the original draft which were accepted. The Bill was introduced after two years in this House, in 1943, and was allowed to lapse. As a matter of fact the very basic principle of this Bill which is the right of recognition of trade unions has been before the public ever since 1940. I cannot understand the views expressed by some members that they did not have sufficient time to consider the principle of the Bill. I was myself present at the last session and I can say with the authority of those who represent labour in this House that there was absolutely no opposition so far as the labour members were concerned to this Bill. It was not debated on, because of the opposition of one or the other parties in this House. I want to make this point very clear in view of the remarks made by the last speaker that even labour members of the House were opposed to the Bill.

Before proceeding into the details of this Bill and its various clauses, I would make some general observations on this Bill. The right of recognition is the most elementary right of the working class. As a matter of fact in all civilised countries this right of recognition of trade unions has been granted by private negotiations and accepting the principle of collective bargaining between the employers and the employees. It is unfortunate that in this country, even at this stage, we are compelled to bring in such legislation for such an elementary right of the workers to have recognition. As a matter of fact the Royal Commission on labour had recommended voluntary recognition of trade unions about 15 or 16 years back, and all these years we hoped for a change of heart of the employers who call themselves as trustees and great patriots—we hoped for change of heart on their part, which would help the growth of healthy trade union movement in this country. Unfortunately we see today that owing to the hostile attitude of the employers and of the government, there has not been that healthy growth of trade union movement. We are faced today with the position that even legislation is required for the very elementary right of the workers to have recognition of trade unions. I will make myself bold to say at this stage that I would lay the entire responsibility on the shoulders of the government and the employers that we have been required to have such legislation for the workers. It should have been possible for us to have recognition and the healthy growth of the trade union movement by collective bargaining and also by private understanding between the employers and the employees if they had accepted the principle of collective bargaining of the workers. I will say a few words in reply to my Honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi who spoke yesterday, and to the last speaker today. They made certain mention about what they called yesterday class organisation, and today they call communal organisations. I for one am not one of those who disputes the right of freedom of organisation to anybody. But I would certainly say that the very basic principle of trade union movement is a class organisation, and classes cut across all communities, religions and even nationalities. It is a class organisation to safeguard the interests of the employees, no matter whether they are Hindus or Muslims, Christians, Europeans or any community they may belong to. It would be an impractical proposition to have communal trade unions because in

[Miss Maniben Kara]

a factory which employs labour of all communities, is it possible for us to have any collective bargaining with the employers unless and until we have the co-operation of all those people who are working there? I would therefore appeal to my Muslim friends that whatever the points of differences between the two major upper class political parties may be, the differences need not be dragged into the trade union movement. Up till now the trade union movement has been free of any of these communal differences, because we are concerned with the economic uplift and the betterment of the conditions of life of the oppressed people. The politics of the trade union movement is essentially the politics of the working classes. It has no other politics. I am sorry the last honourable speaker did not actually give us the contents of the resolution passed by a railway union, but I make bold to say that whatever resolution was published in the Free Press Journal, could not be detrimental either to the Muslim masses or the Hindu masses or the Christian masses or workers of any other religion. That is why I would appeal to my Muslim friends and say let us not drag these communal problems, from which the trade union movement has always been free and will always remain free.

Mr Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan) It has not been free, it will not be free, I am sorry to say.

Miss Maniben Kara: It will be free because the trade union movement is based on class struggle—it is a struggle between the employers and the employees. Here I would draw the attention of my friend Mr Nauman and ask him whether a Muslim employer—is he going to treat his Muslim employees any better if he would get Hindoo employees for less wages?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: On a point of personal explanation.

Mr. President: Order, order. Let the Honourable Member go on.

Miss Maniben Kara: We hold the view that there are only two castes, or classes, so far as trade unions are concerned, one is of the exploiter and the other of the exploited. These are the only two castes in the trade union movement. I say this because I have spent my life in the working class movement and I speak with experience. I am the secretary of a union whose president is an ordinary sweeper—a Muslim of whom I am proud of. We have conducted our strikes and our struggles and fought our difficulties throughout all these years as brethren working in the same family. I would once again emphasise that where the question of economic uplift is concerned, even the differences between the political parties will be solved tomorrow. These questions are not solved by the upper class parties because the basis of political parties is not on economic uplift of the Indian masses—they are merely fighting for the loaves and fishes of office, I would appeal to my friends once again, that if we are to help the working class in this country let us not be satisfied merely with independence—let us fight for the freedom from want of the Indian people, and I would therefore appeal to the members on both sides, both the upper class parties to join hands for the entire reconstruction of the social order in this country which is now based on a feudal system, so that we can break up the entire social order which only will enable the people to be free from the want of the necessities of life. This is the only way we can healthily approach any problem.

Coming again to some of the arguments which are generally put forward for the non-recognition of trade unions—it is said that the trade union movement is not strong in this country. It is a vicious circle. Apart from various other factors which are existing in this country or which have existed for all these years, the main and fundamental reason for the lack of growth of unions is the refusal of the employers to recognise the trade unions. All sorts of suppression, victimisation and obstruction are placed in the way of the trade union movement. If the employers were enlightened enough to understand that the recognition of a union is the surest guarantee of industrial peace in the country I am sure industries would have been helped and so also the growth of trade union move-

ment in this country. It is high time when the employers realised that they cannot say that they are nationalists, but they want to protect their industries against foreign competition. They must realise that they will not as the export trade at the cost of depressing labour wages. The test of nationalism will be the good Bills they bring for the uplift of the Indian workers. I would therefore expect my Muslim friends not to press for cancellation of this Bill but to see that this Bill is passed as quickly as possible. I shall now give the House some information about what is the state of affairs in certain South American countries where trade union movement is not as strong as say in America or England. In some places like Columbia, in order to help the formation of the healthy trade union movement, the consent of a labour judge is necessary even for the transfer of a trade union worker from one place to another. Even there the people have realised the value of healthy trade unionism, which would help the country as a whole. They have raised the status of the trade union leaders to an extent that an employer is not even in a position to transfer a worker from one place to another till a labour authority is consulted on the point. The same thing obtains in Brazil. There also the law provides for the absence of trade union workers without leave. In Bolivia, Chili and Columbia there is no dismissal of a worker (even after giving sufficient grounds for such a dismissal) without the authority of a labour judge. They are not in a position to dismiss just anyway they like. Even now the provisions in the present Bill before us falls short of those conditions can be better judged from the instances which I have given you this morning. These instances, I would once again repeat are found in South American countries where the growth of the trade union movement is not very strong and they have come to realise that it is in the interest of the country to give as many privileges as possible for the betterment of the workers. In Ecuador, if a member of the executive committee of a trade union is dismissed the employers have to pay him one year's wages. That goes to show that those countries have also realised that every facility should be given for the growth of the trade union movement.

Now, I shall deal with some of the sections in this Bill. I do not intend to deal in detail with all the clauses because the Bill is to be referred to the Select Committee. I am sure the Select Committee will give sufficient time and consideration to various suggestions. My friend and colleague Mr. N. M. Joshi is also going to address this House on the same question and he will be quite competent to deal in details. Yet I cannot help making some remarks on Section 28D. After saying all I have done in support of this very elementary right of the workers for recognition, I am surprised that even now numerous conditions are placed for recognition. Is it not good enough for recognition if a union is registered? After all registration of a union is not an easy thing. One has to satisfy the Registrar on so many points. I am pestered by so many letters and circulars from the registrar and you have to answer every time. Every six months we have to fill up forms saying how many meetings of the unions have been held, who are the office bearers, and so on. When all these conditions are already existing for a registered trade union, I cannot therefore understand why any extra difficulties should be placed in the way of the recognition of a trade union by keeping clauses (a) to (h). These clauses are absolutely redundant, because I feel that if a union which has been able to satisfy a Registrar and a union which has been registered should automatically get recognition from the employers.

Again there are certain other dangerous clauses in the Bill. Clause 28D (f)—only a representative Trade Union should get recognition. Who is to decide whether a union is representative or not. It is such a vague term, which is definitely dangerous and goes against the interest of the workers. I shall ask for the deletion of that clause.

I now come to 28E, item (3). I ask for the deletion of the last two lines beginning from 'and shall forward the application to the appropriate, etc.' Here we talk of the Industrial Court. An Independent Industrial Court has been appointed already. I do not see the necessity for recommendation to Government regarding the grant or withholding of recognition.

[Miss Maniben Kara]

Coming to 28F, *et q* Rights of Recognised trade unions, on the face of it, it appears generous. As a matter of fact, the right of a recognised union does not go far enough. It says that the employer will be good enough to receive and send replies to letters sent by the union. The right of the recognised union should not necessarily stop at receiving replies from the employers. They should be given facilities to hold meetings. They should be allowed to form mill committees, factory committees, make collections inside the pace of work. I may also draw the attention of this House that the Government are giving certain facilities to some unions, namely, the P and T Unions and the Railway Unions. Passes are given to the railway unions and the P and T Unions are getting leave to attend their meetings. These are the facilities enjoyed already and they must be put in the Bill because I am not one of those who believe in the change of heart. I would therefore, insist that everything should be put down in black and white, and these suggestions may be seriously considered by the Select Committee.

Sir, these are the few remarks which I wanted to make in support of this Bill and I would once again appeal to all the Members of this House that this Bill should be adopted as it has been put forward by the Honourable the Labour Member.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European) Mr. President, Sir, if the measure now under discussion had been originally drafted and sponsored by the present Labour Member I should have regarded it as somewhat unfortunate that I was compelled to take a critical attitude of the first legislative measure brought before this House by the new Indian Government. Under those circumstances, I should have had to take comfort in the fact that the essence of the parliamentary system is the full and frank expression of opinion and that least of all would my friends on those Benches wish that my Group or my individual in this House should hesitate in expressing his honest views. I drew greater comfort from the fact that this Bill is not the product of the present Government or the present Labour Member but it is indeed a legacy, perhaps an embarrassing and unsatisfactory legacy, from their predecessors, or perhaps to be more accurate, I should say this is a legacy from that Labour Department which has already acquired in all sections of this House and in the country outside a reputation of some years' standing for nebulous drafting, loose thinking and undue haste. I trust therefore my Honourable friend will feel, that when I speak critically of certain portions of this measure that attitude does not denote any unwillingness on our part, in this Group, to help him to the utmost in ameliorating the conditions of labour and in bringing forward really progressive legislation. I want to make it clear at the outset that in spite of our critical attitude towards certain parts of this Bill, we propose to support the reference to Select Committee because we believe that, in spite of its many defects it does contain, some germs of good.

In attempting to analyse the main contents of the Bill, I do not propose to follow the provisions *verbatim* as set forth in the Bill, but I prefer rather to adopt in order which seems to me more convenient for logical analysis. The Bill deals with four main principles. Firstly, though it is not first in the Bill, it defines the rights of recognised Unions, secondly, it discusses the procedure to be followed by a Union to obtain recognition, thirdly, it deals with the conditions under which and the procedure by which, recognition can be withdrawn, and, finally, it lays down certain practices which on the part of the employers or the employed, are specified as unfair practices.

I want to take first the question of the rights of recognised Unions, and since after all, one of the issues implicit in this Bill is whether trade unionism is a good thing or a bad thing I want to take this opportunity of making clear, once for all the attitude of the employers representing this Group towards the establishment of Unions. I would like to remind my Honourable friends that we are not speaking of 1896 when employers by and large regarded Unions as bad things. We are speaking in 1946 when the average, intelligent employer takes

towards this matter an attitude radically different from that which was taken some years ago

Sjt. N. G. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Urban)
There are still die-hards:

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: There are die-hards in every community and my Honourable friend is one of them in his own community. I want to make it quite clear that those employers whom we represent here have no ground whatsoever, for regarding with disapproval or dislike the growth of trade unionism. On the contrary, they see in the development of well-run, balanced and sound unions the best protection of the interests of the employers and the State alike. I do not know whether that statement carries conviction to some of my Labour friends in this House. Miss Mamben Kara said that she had no belief in a change of heart. I also do not believe in much changes of heart, either of individuals or parties, but I do believe that there is such a thing as a change of understanding and a readiness to adjust views to changed social and economic circumstances. The attitude of employers today towards the question of trade unions is based on a new understanding of what is required in the whole economic and social world. And there are three main reasons, it seems to me, why any intelligent employer today must look with a friendly eye upon the growth of good unions. The first of these reasons is a simple one, namely, that at times of disputes and even when a dispute is merely smouldering—before it bursts into flame—it is much easier and much more satisfactory to deal with one strong, organised and recognised body, than it is to deal with a thousand different people, each of whom wants something different, why because they have no proper spokesman, leaving you all the time in the dark as to their real demands. It is clear and sound logic confirmed by experience that, provided a Union is run with a genuine desire to fulfil the proper functions, of a Union, it puts the employer in a far better position in dealing with his work folk. The lack of organisation amongst working people was all right in the past, when they were passive and when they were content to be as they were and when they demanded nothing. But happily those days are now past. Now, the day has come when working people all over the world demand reasonable standards. It is far better for the employer that those demands should be expressed in a readily intelligible form by a strong and well-organised body, than that they should be unexpressed. There is another reason too. If Trade Unions are properly run, they provide the best protection for a good employer against under-cutting by unscrupulous employers. Most big industries in this country are organised into Associations, and those Associations make recommendations with regard to wages and other conditions of work. Ninety per cent of the employers carry out those recommendations, but a small percentage does not. The good employer, at present, has no means whatsoever of bringing pressure to bear on the bad employer to comply with those recommendations which the industry as a whole regards as reasonable. From the point of view of the good employer the existence of a trade union movement is a means of compelling the bad employer to come to his senses, and is thus not a harassment but a protection. I am giving not just my own views but the views which are held, after careful consideration, by the great body of employers which we in this Group from our various constituencies, represent. There is a third reason, too, why the growth of trade unionism is desirable even from the point of view of an employer and that is that nothing helps more than healthy trade unionism to build up the self-respect of the workers—and nothing, in the long run is better for the employer than to build up that self-respect. Short term considerations might suggest that the self-respect of the worker is an obstacle to the prosperity of the employer, but further consideration shows that view to be a thoroughly unsound one. If a worker has more self-respect he will demand a higher standard of living and want to do more work, benefit will accrue to the employer as well as to the employee. There are great industries in this country today where the workers want so little—or at any rate, they are prepared to earn, so little that they cannot be set to work for more than three or four days in the week. Employers in these industries go about almost cap in hand begging

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them to work more—and as a rule, with no successful result whatsoever. Why is this so? It is because these workers have not yet attained that degree of self-respect which makes them demand something better of life and makes them, therefore, ready to earn more than they now do. From all these points of view and without any of that change of heart of which Miss Mambin Kar is so rightly suspicious, there has come amongst intelligent employers today a change of understanding, a readiness to fit in with the social and economic conditions not of the 19th century but of today. Some form of representation, and so of protection for the interests of the workers there must be.

There are three forms which in theory might be regarded as possible. Firstly, there is protection by the State—and we all know what disadvantages that has though at times it may be necessary. In the second place, in some industries experiments have been made with Labour Advisory Committees. Those Committees have their advantages but they have their limitations too. It is not unnatural, therefore, that India should seek to experiment with the third method, the method which has been tried with success in the West, the method of trade unionism. I say, therefore, that no thinking employer today is going to object to the formation of Unions provided these Unions have the best interests of the workers at heart. Looked at in the light of these considerations, Section 28F which deals with the rights of recognised Trade Unions, appears to us wholly satisfactory. I am now speaking in general terms, not in details which are to be discussed in the Select Committee, and I say that

1 P M the provision in this section seems satisfactory. Incidentally when I read it for the first time, it provoked an amusing thought in my mind, that an employer should be compelled to reply to letters received from trade unions. I wished the Government itself would follow that principle, so that when we wrote to Government departments, we should obtain a reply at any rate within a reasonable time.

Passing on from that pleasantry, we do accept the principle contained in Section 28F, but we think, there should be some reciprocal obligation—that a Union should not be allowed to remain silent if questions are put to it, oral or written, by the employer. Much more important and much more difficult than this question is the second principle of the Bill, the principle of compulsory recognition. In this Bill two methods of recognition are envisaged. First there is voluntary recognition by the employer. When that fails, there is recognition by the State, made binding on the employer. This is our main quarrel with this part of the Bill. I have made it clear that we regard as vital the growth of healthy unions and when I speak of healthy unions, I mean unions led for the benefit of labour, not led by self-seeking agitators or by hysterical emotionalists. However important the growth of such unions may be, it is equally important to prevent the growth of certain kinds of unions, unions formed primarily for the purpose of fomenting discord (interruption). I will come to my friend Mr Joshi's point later on—I promise him I won't leave anything out, we will have nothing to do with unions the primary aim of which is not the benefit of workers but the fomenting of discord, unions which have some unjustifiable political motive—it may be to force the acceptance of a new form of economic structure, or a new ideology, by making it difficult, if not impossible, for the employer to carry on his business with profit. Let me repeat this point, that while we recognise the value to the community of the growth of unions which are really aimed at the welfare of the workers, we will never recognise the value of unions which are aimed at forcing a particular ideology on a country or a community which does not want it. We therefore apply this criterion to any legislation dealing with this matter of unions—will it encourage the growth of sound, healthy, legitimate, unions or will it retard the growth of such unions? Will it stimulate the right kind of unions or will it establish the wrong kind of unions? We have considered this measure very carefully from that point of view and it is our considered view—and I believe it is shared by most of those who from the employers' angle have experience of large scale

labour—it is our considered view that this Bill will do harm and not good. This kind of hot-house-plant forcing, this compulsory recognition irrespective of the fitness or otherwise of a particular union will in the long run benefit neither the trade union movement nor the State nor the employer. Let us suppose that a group of men embark on some enterprise—say, a new business. There are two ways of dealing with them. You go to them and say—‘you deliver the goods, and turn out what is wanted, we shall then become your customers.’ On the other hand you can say,—‘as soon as you start the shop, we shall, of course, become your customers, we shall give up our right to examine or criticise the quality of your goods. Good or bad we will buy. Which of these two ways does one adopt in the ordinary transactions of life? Does that not present a very good analogy to the position which is before us, with regard to this proposal for compulsory recognition of trade unions. There are two ways of dealing with a new union. You can go to it and say ‘It is not for us to say whether your union is good or bad—we shall of course recognise it.’ Or you can say—‘We shall watch your achievements, and if we find that yours is a genuine union, aimed at the benefit of the workers, we shall certainly recognise it.’ Which is the better way? Let me make clear what I mean. If a union makes it its business to demand higher wages, better medical facilities, shorter hours of work and if you like and all those things which are really in the interest of labour, then that union is doing what it ought to do. As far as we are concerned, a union which does that fairly and legitimately will receive our recognition. We are not however willing to give up the right to watch the working of a union and decide whether it is *bona fide*, whether it is really aiming at the welfare of labour or whether there is some ulterior and unjustifiable political motive, some motive which is not really germane to the objects of the trade union movement. It is very important here not to confuse two entirely separate questions. Do not let us confuse the question of the desirability of unions with the question of compulsory recognition. There are many things in this world which are desirable, but it does not always follow that the State should rush in and make them compulsory. I understand the spirit, I respect the motive behind this particular part of the Bill. It rises out of a natural and justifiable impatience on the part of my labour friends, who think they can find a short cut to the growth of the union movement by introducing this principle of compulsion. But I believe they will find that the history of the labour movement throughout the world, as indeed the history of the world in most of its aspects, shows that in these matters there are no short cuts. Unions have to earn their recognition by showing that they are sober, reasonable bodies, bodies intending to do the job for which they were set up and not to do some other job. Take my own country. There is no country in the world where unions have acquired a more honourable position, where they have exercised more reasonable power where the relation between the unions and the employers are better than in Great Britain. How has that position been built up? It has not been built up under the shadow of compulsion. It has been built up because in their early days, unions had to learn by their own mistakes, unions had to prove not only to their employers, but to the public and to the State, that they were reasonable bodies. They went through that ordeal, they emerged successful, they showed the world at large that trade unions in my country were such sober and reasonable bodies that they ought to be given an honoured place in the State. Sometimes in the early days, employers were unreasonable and refused to recognise even reasonable unions. But once these unions convinced the public at large that they were in fact sober and responsible bodies, the employers’ opposition was quickly swept away and you soon reached a stage where trade unions were regarded as integral part of the economic structure. What were the points on which the unions there had to satisfy the public and in the last resort the Government. Firstly that they were sober and responsible bodies, secondly that they were representative. I am not using that word in the technical sense for the moment. They had to satisfy the public that they were really representative of workers, thirdly that they were efficient, that they could collect their subscriptions regularly for, after all it is no use having trade unions

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where the members do not subscribe regularly, and where in case of a strike the unions cannot contribute to the upkeep of the members. A trade union which is not able to collect its members' subscriptions is of no use either to the employer, to the employee or to the State. If unions can satisfy the public that they are responsible, that they are reasonably representative and that they are reasonably efficient, then no employer can resist them. It does not matter a scrap whether an employer says he recognises them or not—he will have to deal with them. If on the other hand unions fail to satisfy those conditions—if they are not reasonable and representative and if they cannot collect their subscriptions, then they are either useless or dangerous and should be discouraged. And so my plea today is this—I believe with all my heart that the healthy growth of trade unionism will be one of the most important needs in this country in the years to come. Give that healthy growth a chance, and you do not give it a chance if you adopt hothouse methods from the very start. Still less do you give it a chance if you apply to it certain mechanical criteria. If a union by satisfying criteria, some of which have no relation to its attitude no relation to its sobriety or its responsibility—if merely by satisfying criteria of the kind specified in the relevant clause of this Bill a union can enforce recognition on the employer, you will take away any incentive to that union to grow into a reasonable and thoughtful body. You cannot build a new institution on a Government fiat, you can only build it by convincing reasonable men, in different parts of the community, that it is a necessary and a desirable institution. That indeed was the view which was taken by what was perhaps the ablest body which ever considered labour conditions in this country,—the Royal Commission on Labour. In their report they made it clear that recognition was not a matter for compulsion, because in the last resort the fruits of recognition would not be gathered unless recognition was based on willingness on the part of the employer and unless it was recognition in spirit as well as in the letter. My Honourable friend the Labour Member will I think agree that these are very cogent arguments. But I will apply myself to the question whether there are any arguments on the other side. Is there anything which, in spite of these cogent arguments still justifies us in going ahead with the principle of compulsion? When I received this Bill, as in old campaigner I naturally began by reading the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Then I went back to the previous Bill on the same subject and I read the Statement of Objects and Reasons there. All I could find there in justification of compulsion was this

"The position has not, however, improved in regard to voluntary recognition by employers."

Then being of a suspicious nature I turned again to the previous debate in this House and I saw that Dr Ambedkar at that time had produced no better reason to justify this extraordinary measure of compulsion. All I could find by way of reason adduced by him was this

"The House will remember that the Royal Commission at that stage stated that they would very much desire that the recognition was achieved voluntarily by the consent of the employers without any legal obligation upon them. The House will also remember that the Royal Commission reported in 1929. Practically 12 years have elapsed and there has been no willingness on the part of employers to recognise trade unions voluntarily. Indeed, the objections which employers made before the Royal Commission for opposing recognition of trade unions are still the objections which the employers are pressing for non recognition" (Vol IV, 1943 p 253)

When I read that I naturally turned back again to the report of the Royal Commission on Labour in order to find out the grounds on which employers, at that time were opposing the recognition of trade unions. I found on page 323 that the most important ones were five in number,—as given in 1929. The first reason was

"That the union embraces only a minority of the class concerned"

Let me tell my Honourable friends, particularly my labour friends, that that objection has now been given up by every responsible body of employers in this country. If they will take the trouble to read the conditions which have been framed by various industrial associations on which they are prepared to recognise unions, they will find that the condition that the union must embrace a majority of workers has everywhere been given up. That presumably is one of the conditions which Dr Ambedkar had in mind in 1941, when he stated that the employers were still pressing the old objections as a reason for not recognising unions.

Mr. President: If it is convenient to the Honourable Member he may stop here and resume after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (the Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. President: I have to announce that under sub-order (1) of Standing Order 80 of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders the following Honourable Members will form the Committee on Petitions—

- (1) Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang
- (2) Mr Sri Prakasa
- (3) Mr C P Lawson
- (4) Sardar Mangal Singh

According to the provision of the same Standing Order the Deputy President will be the Chairman of the Committee.

INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd*

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Mr President, before lunch after beginning by trying to establish that no modern intelligent employer is averse to the growth of healthy trade unions, I marshalled some of the arguments against the introduction of the principle of compulsion. From that I passed on to consider whether there were any compelling reasons which in spite of all the disadvantages of compulsion might still justify the inclusion of a clause of this nature. I went back to the time where the Labour Member's predecessor had said that the arguments used by employers against recognition of unions in 1929 were still being used against them now. To find out what those arguments were I had turned back to the report of the Royal Commission on Labour and in that Report I found it stated that five different lines of argument were used by employers against the recognition of unions. Of those five lines of argument I had dealt with two. I explained then that the first objection to the union, that it did not contain a majority of the workers, had since been given up by all employers. I then dealt with the second objection raised in 1929, which related to the presence of outsiders in the executive of the union, and I pointed out that that objection too had now been given up by practically all important industrial associations. Three objections remain. The third was, as stated by the Royal Commission on Labour, the failure of the union to register under the Trade Unions Act. I do not believe that any single member of this House, certainly no labour member, maintains that an employer today ought to recognize a union which has not even observed the elementary formality of registering itself under the Trade Unions Act. There remain two other grounds of objection which according to the Royal Commission were then being urged by employer. One of those was refusal of the union to dispense with the services of a particular official. That has taken place undoubtedly in a certain number of cases. But if my Honourable friends will look at any of the recent statement, by industrial associations and large

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employers as to the conditions on which they are prepared to recognize the unions, they will find no tolerance whatsoever to any right on the part of an employer to demand that a union shall dispense with the services of a particular official. So that out of the five grounds of objection taken at the time of the Royal Commission on Labour, four are no longer sustained by the employers.

The fifth reason is a very delicate matter. (Interruption) My friend says, why have you changed? The answer is because employers are sufficiently intelligent to adjust themselves to the march of events, they do not stand on ancient slogans and shibboleths, but they are ready to adapt themselves to the needs of the hour. The fifth ground then given is a very difficult and delicate matter indeed. It was the prior existence of another union. This is an extremely difficult question. It is a question about which there is room for two reasonable points of view. I may hold, as I do hold, that the existence of more than one recognized union in the same concern can be disastrous to the employer and the employees alike. Be that as it may, it is a question which is not dealt with in the present Bill. The point I want to make now is that when Dr Ambedkar stated that the objections which were being urged by employers in 1929 for the recognition of unions were still being urged, he was stating something which was completely incorrect. Of those five objections four have been openly and publicly given up, and the fifth is a matter in which there is a room for reasonable difference of opinion. So that the argument set forth in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that this compulsion had to be introduced because things had not improved, has no foundation in fact. My Honourable friend, Miss Maniben Kara, who unfortunately has to be elsewhere this afternoon for another Labour Conference, said in effect that unions had not developed in the last twelve years—or fifteen years it may have been—and that of course this was the fault of the employers. They had not developed because the employers would not let them develop. Had it occurred to my Honourable friend that there are two parties to the development of a union and to the recognition of a union. On the one hand there is the employer and on the other there is labour. And I should be prepared to assert that at any rate in many industries, the reason why unions have not developed is that my Honourable friends in this House, who are distinguished labour leaders, in spite of all their efforts have not yet succeeded in those industries in persuading the labour to recognise that unions are what they need. It is an utterly unfair and unsound assumption that because unions have not developed, employers must necessarily have been putting obstacles in their way. I can give an example of one large industry, an industry which employs more labour than any other industry in this country and as far as that industry is concerned I say categorically that the allegation is not true. We have not put and we are not putting obstacles in the way of the formation of trade unions. The formation of unions in industry generally will take place as and when labour begins to feel that it needs unions and as and when it begins to get confidence in those who come forward to lead them. One of the biggest reasons for this backwardness is the lack of a sufficient number of leaders of the right calibre. I have said in this House before and I will say it again that if we had a thousand Joshis the labour movement would go fast. Every one respects Mr Joshi for what he has done and is still trying to do in the cause of labour, but one Mr Joshi and one Mr Gadgil and two or three others cannot lead labour movements designed to cover millions of people. The lack of labour leaders of the right kind is the main reason for the little progress that has been made since the time of Royal Commission sat in the organisation and recognition of labour unions. It is a calumny, it is not to say that employers in these recent years are in general refusing to recognize unions and are putting obstacles in the way of their development. Several of the large industrial associations with which I have dealings have sometime since drawn up simple conditions of recognition for unions. They

have made it perfectly clear that they will recognize any union tomorrow which grows up in compliance with those conditions. I am prepared to show those conditions to the Labour Member, or my Honourable friend, Mr Joshi, or to any labour member of this House, and I can tell you, Sir, that when he reads them he will be surprised to find a complete absence from them of any pettifogging restrictions. He will be convinced that they represent a genuine desire on the part of employers to meet the needs and wishes of labour as soon as those needs and wishes begin to make themselves felt. So that the argument that you must have this compulsion because employers have played unfairly is without foundation. And here I want to make a plea to my Honourable friend, the Labour Member, and to this House. Of recent years, particularly within the last two or three years, a new spirit has been born, not only in this country but throughout the world with regard to all these labour matters. Employers today approach these problems from a different angle and with a different emotional background. A new atmosphere has been created. Give this new atmosphere a chance to make itself felt. Give us a chance to see what can be done in the way of developing good relations between employers and the employees, without vitiating that atmosphere by the distasteful principle of compulsion. What my Honourable friend says in effect is "you must have compulsion because in the bad old days before the war when men's minds were different in many respects, before new light on these subjects had dawned—because in those days employers were hidebound—just as in those days labour leaders were hidebound—because of the conditions which prevailed then, now we must have the element of compulsion." Give the new spirit a chance to work. Accept the view of the Royal Commission on Labour. In the last resort, the power and the strength and the development of unions will depend not on formalities and legal principles, but on the spirit in forming their action on the one hand and of the employers on the other. I will tell my Honourable friend, the Labour Member, that if he will adopt that policy he will find the employers of 1946 ready to meet him and labour very much more than half way. I do therefore beg that this element of compulsion shall be removed from this Bill.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) What will remain of it?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: The first thing remaining will be the statement of the rights of a recognised union. Secondly, moral recognition will have been given by Government and by this House and by employers to the fact that trade unions are a desirable and essential part of the economic structure. My Honourable friend, Mr Joshi, tends to live in legal formulas or textbooks. Let us get into the spirit of compromise. I can promise my Honourable friend, that as far as those whom we in this group represent are concerned, he will not find us stiff, but ready to develop this Trade Union movement. If Government will not accept my plea, I have another suggestion, a kind of halfway house, and the idea of this halfway house really arises from a very useful interjection by Mr Joshi. When I was speaking this morning and was trying to develop the theme that it was important to encourage a sound, balanced and healthy union and to discourage the unsound, unhealthy union having some ulterior motive other than the mere benefit of labour. Mr Joshi nodded that wise head of his and said, "Who is to be the judge?" There, of course, is the crux of the problem. Who is to be the judge as to the behaviour and attitude of any particular union. My contention is that in the first place the employer must be the judge. But if Government will not accept my plea for the abolition of compulsion altogether, my next contention is, let there be a court of appeal. Let the employer be the judge in the first place and have the right to refuse to recognise a union. Then let the union come and allege that recognition has been refused unreasonably. Let all the relevant facts and circumstances be taken into consideration, as to whether the refusal by the employer has been unreasonable or not. This present Bill, as now drafted, does not provide for that. It lays down certain mechanical criteria to which and by which the industrial court is confined. As the Bill is now

[Mr P J Griffiths]

framed, if an employer refuses recognition, three months later the union can go to the industrial court and there it has to establish certain criteria. Those criteria are all in a sense mechanical in their nature. The most important of them are, firstly, that all the ordinary members are workmen employed in the same trade or industry; secondly, that it has for twelve months been a registered union; I pass over the third as I do not want to be involved in this extremely contentious matter of a communal nature; fourthly, that the rules provide the procedure for declaring strikes; fifthly, that the meeting of the executive shall be held once in every six months; sixthly, that it is a representative trade union. I will come back in a minute to the question of a representative trade union.

The point I wish to make is that all that the industrial court is entitled to do is to consider whether the union has complied with these conditions or not. There is not a word here that authorises the industrial court to consider how the union is behaving or what are the evidences to its intentions—whether it is a responsible body, whether it exists for making trouble or whether its primary purpose is political. The moment the union can satisfy the industrial court that it conforms to these purely mechanical criteria, the industrial court can do nothing but recommend recognition to Government.

In the next section you have some words which may mean anything or nothing. They say "On the receipt of a report, a Provincial Government, if satisfied that a trade union is fit to be recognised, may by notification, etc

I have two points about that. Is it really right when we in this House are trying to lay down the conditions under which a union shall be recognised, that we should wave an airy hand and say we cannot lay down the details, but that if Government thinks a union is fit to be recognised, that is good enough for us? Is that legislation or is it shirking our duties? I say with all respect that it is entirely wrong in principle for the Labour Member or his predecessor to come to this House, and ask us to give our sanction to a blanket clause of a kind which says that a Provincial Government can recognise whatever it likes to recognise. Let us say so, if we mean that. If that is our wish let us say with regard to trade unions that the Provincial Government can please itself as to what it does with regard to union. But I do not believe the House will accept that view. We are here to give guidance by legislation to Provincial Governments as to the principles they should apply in deciding whether a union is fit for recognition or not. I do urge that this kind of vague blanket legislation is not satisfactory.

I come back to my point that as things stand, a union may be irresponsible, dangerous, and devoted to some improper object, but it still may satisfy the criteria laid down by the Bill for the industrial court. The only protection then that we are given—and by 'we' I mean the employer and the State—is that the Provincial Government can make up its mind whether the union is or is not fit to be recognised. This does not go far enough.

I want to go further. I do ask my Honourable friend, the Labour Member to consider the desirability of laying it down that in the normal way, the employer is to have the right to recognise or refuse to recognise a union. From that refusal if necessary the right of appeal may lie with the proper authority and the grounds for the right of appeal should be that the employer has acted unreasonably. I shall have much more to say about that when we come to the Select Committee. But I do ask my honourable friend to accept the principle that more definition is necessary, that the onus of recognition rightly belongs to the employer and that it is only in those exceptional circumstances, where an employer unreasonably refuses to recognise a union that Government or an industrial court ought to intervene. That intervention ought to be governed by principles clearly laid down in this Act.

I pass on from that, because I have already taken too long a time over it. There are still a few points with which I must deal.

The first is with regard to the complete lack of any definition in this Bill as to what is meant by a representative union. That phrase, representative union, seems to be the keypoint of the whole Bill, for in fact what the Bill says amounts to this. That if a union is a representative union, then provided it satisfied certain criteria, it shall be recognised by the State and that recognition shall be binding on the employer. That means nothing to me, unless you tell me what your starting point is. It is no use saying that a representative union is to be a recognised union, if you do not tell me what a representative union is. It is wrong in principle to take a matter of this kind and leave it entirely to the rules. Rules exist to carry out the purposes of the Act and not to define those purposes. The essential purpose of this Act is to give recognition to a representative union, and yet forsooth, we cannot be told what principles are involved in deciding what representative unions are. As I have said on previous occasions, this means a shirking of our responsibility. We are here to lay down guiding principles. We are here to define those points on which the working of the Statute will depend. I do urge my friend to accept the principle that when the Select Committee stage is reached, an attempt will be made and must be made, to make clear what we mean by a representative union.

My friend says, and I understand his point, that in these matters elasticity must be left. Some discretion must be left to the Provincial Government. I agree for circumstances do vary from province to province and from industry to industry. But he must lay down some overriding principle. Let him lay down that there must be a minimum percentage for membership, and having done that if he likes to leave Provincial Governments to vary the percentage, I have no objection. But if this phrase "representative union" is to mean anything at all, you must have some kind of minimum membership clause in it, I know the arguments against such a clause. It is very often said that a small trade union may be better than a large trade union, but that is one of those nice copy book sayings that you cannot translate into practice. How does it work in real life? If you had a union to which only 5 per cent. of your labour force belonged, what would it mean, if you said that it was a representative union? It is merely misusing words. You have in practice to deal with the other 95 per cent. outside the ambit of the union. On the other hand, if a trade union contains 90 per cent. of the labour force, it does not matter whether you recognise it or not. It will in fact be representative and you will have to deal with it. There must therefore be some connection between representative capacity and numerical strength. I am not here concerned to argue that a particular percentage should be fixed, nor am I concerned necessarily to insist that that percentage must be the same in all industries and in all parts of the country. But the principle must be laid down in this Bill that no union can be deemed to be representative unless it contains a minimum percentage, to be defined according to the circumstances of the industry and the Province, if you like, of the membership of each individual concern. I want to stress this point—each individual concern. You may have a union covering 70 or 80 different concerns, but which may not have a single member in the particular concern in which I happen to be interested or which I happen to own. If you were to call that union 'representative' in my concern, would it mean anything in practice? I will develop this point in more detail at the select committee stage. I do trust the Honourable the Labour Member will give the most serious consideration to this aspect of the matter. I have urged upon him three points. I have urged that the principle of compulsion is bad. I have gone on to urge that recognition is the normal function of the employer and that intervention by the State or by an Industrial Court is only justified where it can be shown conclusively by the union that the refusal to recognise has been unreasonable. I have gone on from that to argue that before he gets even to that stage, he must give some more point to his definition of a "representative union."

[Mr P. J. Griffiths]

I have only two more points to make now and the first relates to the question of withdrawal of recognition. In this Bill, just as we define the procedure for granting of recognition, so it is sought to lay down the procedure for withdrawal of recognition. This section requires the most careful examination, for it contains features which may well become a prolific source of strife and dispute. For example, as the Bill now stands, any Union can apply for the withdrawal of recognition from another union. What a pretty kettle of fish. What a state of affairs it when two or three rival unions have started in a particular concern, each starts coming along and claiming that Government must cancel the recognition already granted to another union. There is bound to be difficulty there and I realise that the Labour Member has an awkward problem to solve. We will try to discuss in Select Committee as to what the solution ought to be. But I do want to stress the fact that the section, as it stands at present, will not solve the problem. It is defective in other respects too. For example, it is illegal in the extreme, that an employer in the first place has the right to grant or not to grant recognition but has no right whatsoever to withdraw recognition, even if the union behaves in exactly the kind of way which would have justified him morally in not granting recognition when it was first formed. Clearly there ought to be some provision as to the right of withdrawal of recognition by an employer, subject, if you will to an appeal on the ground that the withdrawal has been unreasonable, to some competent authority.

My last topic is a very brief one and it relates to that section which deals with unfair practices. Here I have no general objection to the section as it stands, but it seems to me to require very much more detailed examination with regard to certain important points. For example, we are told that if the majority of the members of a union take part in an illegal strike or if the executive of the union encourage any irregular strike, that shall be a ground for the withdrawal of recognition. This sounds grand on paper but in practice it does not take a majority of the workers of a union to dislocate an important industry. It may easily happen that an important section of the workers in a particular industry, for less than a majority, can bring about dislocation and produce exactly the same disastrous results as would ensue if a strike had been called regularly by the union in the ordinary way. A small percentage of the members of a union acting against the views of the union can go on strike and cause dislocation, even when a majority of the members of the union are opposed to the strike. Does it not seem that there ought to be some provision for a union to prove its bona fides, that it was not behind the strike, that by expelling these of its workers who indulge in irregular strike without its sanction. I am not now saying anything dogmatic or putting forward a final opinion. I am mentioning the problem as a matter for consideration. What can be done to deal with this particular difficulty is a matter which we shall have to discuss in the Select Committee.

There is one more point under this same head which seems to require clarification too. There is a section or clause, clause 28 (K) which speaks about the rights of a trade union. That may be a very good section or it may be a very bad section. I find it hard to judge, because I have no idea as to what the Honourable the Labour Member has in mind, when he talks about the rights of a trade union. Have they, for example, the right to hold their meetings in working hours? Is the employer expected to allow them to hold their meetings in the time for which he pays his workers? Have they the right to hold their meetings within business premises? All this is not clear. I dislike and apprehend greatly the use of these vague blanket phrases such as the rights of a trade union. I believe that more harm has been done in this world by the loose use of vague general phrases about rights like this about the rights of a trade union than by most other political causes. Do not let us talk in such abstract terms about the rights of a trade union. Let us

say what those rights are. This is one of the many points in this Bill which requires clarification.

Sir, that is all that I have to say at this stage, except for one final appeal to the Honourable the Labour Member. I have been forced to adopt today an attitude towards his Bill which must be distasteful to him, although I propose to support the reference to select committee, I have made it clear that the draughtsmanship is defective that in the Bill there are many lacunae and that altogether, I think, it is a badly thought out Bill. That point of view must be distasteful to the Honourable Member but I have expressed myself frankly to him now because I want to ask him to take the chance, the chance which has been provided to him by his coming into office in the present Government of giving his Department a new start. For years past the Labour Department has gone on bludgeoning its way through—producing hastily drafted legislation—either not consulting the interests concerned or consulting them after the draft has been completed—calling tripartite conferences, not presenting those conferences with the agenda beforehand and putting him before them for the first time actually in the middle of a conference. Those have been the kind of bludgeoning tactics adopted by the Labour Department for some years past. Every section of this House subscribes to my view on this matter and every section of this House hopes that, with the advent to power of a new Government there will be—I dare not say change of heart, in view of what I have said about changes of heart this morning—a change of understanding. The Labour Member will realise that we do not meet in the old diehard days of 20 or 30 years ago. He has to deal on this side of the House with a body representing employers who will co-operate with him who will back up his efforts to promote the welfare of labour and in return we expect from his department that consideration, courtesy and consultation which have been conspicuously lacking in recent years.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces, Non-Muhammadan Urban). Sir, I rise to support the motion that the Bill be referred to the select committee. When I was hearing the very able exposition of my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths on the Bill before us I was reminded of a conversation that I had with the President of the Employers Association of Northern India, Sir Tracy Gavin Jones, in the year 1938. At that time there was a very serious labour trouble in my own city, the city of Cawnpore, and I had to do something with that strike which ultimately took place. I almost went on my knees before him and I requested Sir Tracy Gavin Jones to be good enough to grant recognition to that union, which was smarting under the disability of not having been recognised, and Sir Tracy put the question to me—“You raise this question of recognition, but I want to know what the aims of your labour union are.” I said that the aims have been laid down in the constitution. He said “No, you are not purely a trade union, there is something of an ulterior motive behind your trade union, which is your politics, and hence I am not going to advise the Employers Association to grant recognition to you.” I appealed to him to broaden his policy. I requested him to give the labour leaders and the representatives of labour a chance to sit with the employers and to thrash out matters which were agitating labour at that time. But Sir Tracy would not budge an inch, and today while I was hearing Mr Griffiths I was reminded of that conversation, and I found that there was precious little change so far as the understanding of the situation was concerned. As Mr Griffiths said, it is not proper here perhaps, where intellectuals are sitting, to talk about change of heart, but only of a change of understanding. Till 1938 or 1939, that change of understanding did not come over the members of the Employers Association of Northern India.

A great deal of time has been wasted by talking about what actually trade union activities are and what should be the motive which should guide the various trade unions in the country. Mr Griffiths would not object to a trade union demanding higher wages, better conditions of service, old age pensions and all that, but perhaps Mr Griffiths would not touch a trade union with a

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

pair of tongs if that trade union were to place before it the ideal of bringing about a complete social change in the body politics of society, which means that wherever there is the least possible doubt regarding the motive with which the trade union functions, and which according to Mr Griffiths is not within the ambit of trade unionism, he would not tolerate it. To me it appears that at this hour of the day it is not possible for us to circumscribe the activities of a trade union. A trade union should be perfectly at liberty to have as its objective the reconstruction of society on such economic principles as do not today find acceptance with friends of the way of thinking of Mr Griffiths. If you do not permit trade unions to function with those aims and objectives before them, you will be really putting a great deal of hindrance in the way of the development of trade unionism in the country. After all, life cannot be divided in watertight compartments. For the life of me I cannot understand why a trade union which has got that ideal before it should not be considered as a properly constituted trade union, and why merely because it happens to bring about or to strive to bring about, a change in the economic and social conditions it should not find recognition or it should not be considered as working on trade union lines. I quite understand the trouble which the employers feel from trade unions which have not been formed on proper lines. I myself, in my capacity as a humble servant of labour, have felt that sometimes, or even oftener, the labour leaders and workers go out of their way to create trouble, but then, we are passing through a period of transition, and we cannot, situated as we are, all of a sudden, try to bring all our movements under effective control. Such lapses should not in any way be put down to the idea that because that particular labour union happens to have a wider objective before it, therefore all these troubles are arising.

My Honourable friend Mr Ghantis has gone into the reasons which are responsible for not bringing trade unions into proper shape in this country. Ours has been a position peculiar to ourselves. Nowhere in the world had the labour movement to work under those conditions under which our trade union movement had to function. The primary consideration before the country for the last twenty five years has been political freedom and the best intellects of the country have devoted their time and energy to that cause. Naturally, it was not possible for us, in this very peculiar political condition in which we found ourselves, to devote our energies to the development of sound trade unions in the country. That is one of the main reasons why trade unionism has not functioned in the country in the way it should have.

I quite agree with Mr Griffiths that we could not find trade union leaders of calibre. That difficulty again has been before us but the one factor, which Mr Griffiths so hotly repudiated, has also worked to our disadvantage and that has been that during the last 25 years we have never received any encouragement whatsoever from the employers to organise our labour on sound trade union lines. Mr Griffith's protestations cannot take away this fact from consideration.

Then, again, Sir, we have heard criticisms of various clauses in the Bill. Some criticisms are of the nature which require consideration in the Select Committee but there are some criticisms which have been levelled against this Bill which more or less are of a fundamental nature. My friend Mr Sattar Seth has asked why we should put hindrance in the way of organising labour on communal lines. As a man who has been associated with labour for the last 25 years of his life in a way, I can say that if we promote or encourage anything of that sort I can assure Seth Abdus Sattar that the whole labour movement in the country will go to dogs. Maulana Hasrat Mohani, a revered friend, was approached by certain friends in my city and he was asked to organise a Muslim trade union in the city. I had an occasion to talk with Maulana Hasrat Mohani about this question and he said 'Well, Panditji, it will be disastrous if we promote this sort of organisation so far as the labour of the country is concerned.' I can quite understand some of the labour unions functioning on

communal lines but I certainly cannot understand why the Government should encourage this, knowing as we do that that will certainly cut across the labour interests in the country, be they Hindu or Muslim. If anything, the leaders of public opinion in this House should take into consideration one fact, that so far as the employers are concerned, they know no distinction either of nationality or of race or of religion or of community. Nearly all the employers in Northern India who are employers worth the name are members of the Employers Association of Northern India. Hindus, Muslims, Europeans, Christians, whoever they are, they are there. Then, if the employers are feeling that country of interest so far as their economic interests are concerned, how is it that we here should raise our voice against the very sound principle that labour should not have any organisation whatsoever on communal lines. After all labour organisations are not faced with political questions day in and day out. There are certain occasions, as my friend Mr. Seth pointed out, when some burning political topic comes up before a certain trade union organisation and the majority of the members perhaps express their opinion contrary to the views of the minority. Well, if certain occasions like this arise, the minority in that organisation must be left free to express its opinion in the way it likes, but because such occasions arise we should not encourage communal unions to be formed. If that happens, then we shall be weakening the trade union movement and the labour movement of the country to a very great extent. I would appeal to my friend not to insist upon getting this Bill circulated and to withdraw his motion.

Naturally there are certain clauses in the Bill which require redrafting and reconsideration. Some of them have been mentioned by Mr. Griffiths. He has put forward certain suggestions also and I hope in the Select Committee he will be of immense help to all those who are there to make the Bill acceptable to all sections of the House.

So far as the question of compulsion is concerned, I think we cannot be too legalistic about it. And we cannot stand on principle to such an extent that we may endanger the development of the whole labour movement in the country. Even the veteran labour leaders do not like the trade unions to be recognised merely by the fiat of executive authority, merely because the State has granted recognition to a particular union. That is all right, but then the whole trade union movement is in its infancy and when we want to build it up on proper lines it is necessary that the State should accord some help towards the building up of that movement and I think this Bill is nothing more than a help towards making the trade unions function on proper lines. Compulsion is not a very good thing and the employers will naturally resent that sort of compulsion but then after this great armageddon we have seen how employers have readily fallen in with the amount of compulsion which nobody could dream of before the last war. Even in England we have seen employers carrying out the wishes of the State without making too much upon the principle of *laissez faire* and, therefore, today to raise our voice against a slight compulsion that might be in one legislation or the other, is like going against the current. Compulsion is there. Compulsion will have to be there if we want our society to be reconstructed on proper lines. I therefore think that we should not in any way come in the way of the present government in bringing on the anvil various labour legislations which the Honourable the Labour Member has before him. As I was hearing another friend of mine in this House on this Bill, I was thinking whether we shall allow this canker of communalism to eat into every walk of our public life. So far, we have succeeded in keeping the Trade Union movement of the country free from any bias of religion or communalism, but if we allow the slightest possible encouragement from the side of the State in that direction, then I think we shall be harming the labour interests which look up to you in this House for protection. With these words I support the motion for the Bill being referred to the Select Committee.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr. President, the Bill which we have been discussing for some time since yesterday evening is a small measure intended to remove one

[Mr. N. M. Joshi] of the difficulties experienced by the trade union movement in this country. The employers in this country have pleaded many excuses for not recognising trade unions of their employees. I do not wish to traverse over the ground which has been covered by my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths, who quoted the arguments pleaded by the employers against the recognition of their employees as given by the Royal Commission on Indian Labour. They have pleaded many excuses, but Mr Griffiths quoted five of them as given by the Labour Commission. Mr Griffiths said that most of these arguments which the employers used against the recognition of trade unions have been now given up by the employers. He said that the employers may not have changed their hearts but they have changed their understanding. He made us understand that the employers of this country have given up their former attitude towards the trade unions. But, Sir, from the speech to which we all listened this morning and part of this afternoon, I feel that not only the employers of this country have not shown any change of heart but I am afraid they have shown no change even of understanding. I do not find from his speech that he understands the trade union movement in this country any better than his predecessors of 25 or even 50 years ago.

Sgt N. V. Gadgil They are Bourbons!

Mr. N. M. Joshi. He told us that the employers now do not object to the outsiders working in the trade union movement. Even there he was not quite accurate. If he had said some of the employers now do not object, he would have been right. But I know even today some of the employers who object to the outsiders taking part in the trade unions of their employees. I am however prepared to admit that some of the employers have given up some of their old prejudices. Unfortunately, when people do not really at heart realise that the trade unions are an essential part of the industrial organisation and if they cannot plead the old arguments they are clumsy enough to find out new arguments. My friend Mr Griffiths told us that the employers would be very willing to recognise trade unions if all the trade unionists were very good men and if their objects had been such as the employers approved. If they did not take part in politics and if they did not create any discord, then there would be no difficulty in the employers recognising the trade unions.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) And they have to bring a Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: When I have become old and incapable of starting new unions and making fights on their behalf, he is quite willing to show consideration to me personally.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) He appreciated your services all along.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He said that the trade unions must not create any discord between the employers and the employees. It is not the business of a trade union to create discord. A trade union is intended to protect the rights of its members, the employees. If the rights of the members could be protected by negotiation a trade union worthy of its name would prefer that method of settlement. But it is not always possible to protect the rights of the members of the trade unions without some kind of fight. He said that the trade unions, in India took part in semi political activities. He wants the trade unions to be content with asking for the reduction of hours, asking for the increase of wages and such things. But he suggests to us that it is not the business of a trade union to enter into politics. And then Sir he told us that he was an admirer of the British trade union movement and he told us perhaps to follow the great example of the British trade union movement. Let me assure him that I am one of the admirers of the British trade union movement, but I have yet to learn that the British trade unions do not enter into politics or do not fight with the employers in that country.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: They do

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They do. Therefore, a trade union movement will on some occasions create some discord between the employers and the employees. It is therefore not right for him to expect trade unions not to create any discord.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I did not object to the fact that the Union would in practice have to fight against the employers. I referred to the motive underlying the formation of a union and I objected to an Union which was created for the purpose of fomenting discord rather than for the purpose of looking after the real welfare of the labour.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I said very clearly the object of a trade union is to protect the interests of its members.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: It should be.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is the object.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Not always.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: And if to fulfil that object it has to fight the employers, well, the union will have to fight. Has the British Trade Union Congress given up politics? He may know something about the British Trade Union Congress, though he may not have attended any of their meetings.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I have attended their meetings.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: So have I. The British Trade Union Congress has not eschewed politics. On the contrary, they give great importance to political questions. The British Trade Union Congress has not given up asking for the abolition of the capitalist system. The British Trade Union Congress is trying its very best to see that a socialist democracy is established in Great Britain as early as possible. I, therefore, feel that when Mr Griffiths told us that the trade unions in India were not good unions because they created discord between the employers and the employees and because they took part in the political movement of this country.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I rise on a point of personal explanation again. I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member but he is unintentionally misrepresenting me. I did not object to unions taking part in politics. I objected to those unions the primary object of which was not the welfare of the labour but the forcing of a particular economic structure on society. To put it more plainly, a union whose primary aim is not labour welfare but communism is a bad union.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Well, Sir, I again repeat for the benefit of my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths that the primary object of a trade union is to protect the interests of its members.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Should be.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: And whatever legally and legitimately is necessary for the protection of those interests, the union is justified in doing. If the interests of the members cannot be protected without the abolition of the capitalist system, well the union will advocate the abolition of the capitalist system.

Sir Cowasjee Jahangir: Will it go on strike for that purpose?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I will come to the question of recognition. It is in these circumstances when the employers even today do not show a proper understanding of trade union movement in this country that the Honourable Labour Minister has brought forward this small measure. Sir, my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths quoted the Royal Commission on Indian labour. I happened to be a Member of that Commission and as a Member of that Commission after having studied the whole question very anxiously and carefully at that time, we came to the conclusion that if recognition is to serve its object completely, it will be better if the recognition was voluntary and genuine. Sir, I subscribe to that view sincerely and fully. We felt that you may give the trade union some kind

[Mr N M Joshi]

of recognition by law, but a real and sincere recognition is difficult to be obtained by law. You may take a horse to the water, but it is not easy to make him drink the water. You may make a law compelling an employer to write a reply to a letter sent by a trade union, but in any case it is very difficult to compel an employer to write a reasonable reply.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: You cannot even compel Government to do that.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You may compel an employer to grant an interview to the representative of a trade union, but you cannot by law persuade an employer to be just and fair to his employees. It is on account of these difficulties that the Royal Commission at that time came to the conclusion that it is better to see that the employers in this country learn in the course of time the wisdom of recognising unions, the wisdom of recognising that trade union is an essential part of the industrial organisation of the country. Unfortunately employers in this country did not learn much during the fifteen years that have elapsed since the Royal Commission wrote its report. It is on account of that that the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour Department has been compelled to bring forward this measure. As has been explained both by Mr Griffiths and the Honourable Member in charge, the measure creates a right, in my humble judgment a very small right, for the working classes in this country by laying down a principle that an employer shall reply to the letters written by a recognised trade union and grant interviews to the representatives of that trade union. Even the small right which this Bill proposes to give to the trade unions is again whittled down. The employer is only bound to reply to the letter written by the trade union once, but if the employer comes to a decision either favourable or unfavourable, then for six months the trade unions cannot write another letter on that subject to the employer and expect a reply. You will see even the small right which the Bill proposes to give to the trade union has been whittled down to a great extent by the provision that the employer need not reply to the letter, if the point had been covered once by a previous letter and decided by the employer. I feel that the rights given by this legislation are very small and very meagre. But that is not the complaint which I propose to make just now at this stage. The complaint which I make now against the Government is that in order to give this small right to the trade unions the Government is imposing very heavy conditions upon the trade unions in this country. After all what is the right the Government is giving to the trade unions? The Government is giving to the trade unions the moral right which every employee of an employer has got. The employee has the moral right if he has to make written representations as regards his conditions of work to the employer, to get a reply from his employer. Similarly an employee has the moral right to see his employer and talk to him on the conditions of life and work in the factory or in that industry. If the Government therefore gives this moral right and puts it into legislation the Government is not justified in imposing heavy conditions. I would have preferred the Government of India to lay down in simple language this moral right, in legal phraseology that every employer shall reply to the representations made by the employee or his representative, the trade union, similarly every employer shall grant an interview to the employee or his representative, the trade union. So, a simple laying down of a principle of this kind in legal phraseology would have been enough for the working classes in this country. But Sir the Government of India whenever they want to give something to labour they are always afraid of the employers. They feel that if a small right is conferred upon the employees they must exact the price and therefore the Government of India have laid down in this Bill very heavy conditions. I shall not go into details of these conditions. But I must state in this House that not only are these conditions heavy but they are likely to create complications which will make the administration of this law difficult and may even hamper the growth of the trade union movement in this country. One of the conditions is that the union to be recognised must confine itself to one industry. I lay the charge on the Government of being vague as regards this condition. One does not know what an

industry is. You insist that a trade union must derive its membership from one industry. Is the textile industry one industry? You may say that the cotton textile industry is one industry, woollen textile is another industry, silk textile is a third industry and the handloom industry is a fourth industry. The word "industry" is not defined and, I am afraid, will not be easy to define. Similarly we would like to have one union for the transport industry. But the transport industry may consist of railways, motor transport and air transport, and unless we define the word "industry" we shall not know what sort of unions to start. So far as I am concerned I feel that this restriction or condition imposed upon trade unions is not only unnecessary but is likely to create great difficulties and may hamper the growth of trade unions. We want large trade unions in order that these trade unions should function effectively and should protect the interests of their members. If the word "industry" is narrowly interpreted the growth of the trade union movement in this country will be hampered and weakened.

I will also mention another condition laid down by the Government of India, and along with my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths I will say that the condition is very vague. It says that the union to be recognised must be 'representative'. I do not exactly understand what the meaning of that is. And again if you try to define it you will find that the administration, even looking at it from your own point of view, will not be easy, and from the labour point of view it will certainly create obstacles in the way of the growth of the trade union movement. A union extending over a province will be representative in Bombay, having a membership prescribed by the provincial Government—10 or 15 per cent whatever may be laid down—but it may not have a representative character in another place like Sholapur in the Bombay province. We want all these trade unions to amalgamate themselves and work together and if you lay down a condition by which unions which are recognised in one place and not recognised in another place you will create great difficulties. Even in the same city it will not be easy for you to define the word in such a way that the smooth working of that condition will become practicable and the laying down of this condition will not create an obstacle in the way of sound trade union movement.

Then, Sir, the Government of India propose to give power to the Provincial Governments to lay down any condition which the provincial Government wants. Sir, these are days of dictatorships, Hitler is gone and the Tsars are gone, but then spirit has not disappeared. I do not really understand what the Government of India mean by giving this power to the provincial Governments. It is true that the Government of India say that the new conditions to be imposed must not be inconsistent with the conditions laid down in that section. This clause will give power to the provincial Governments to lay down any conditions. My Honourable friend Mr Griffiths wanted perhaps some condition to be laid down as regards the unions taking part in politics. What will prevent a provincial Government saying that a union to be recognised must possess politics of a certain character and must not possess politics of some other character? It is quite possible that such a condition may be laid down and I do not see how, if such a condition is laid down, it will be inconsistent with the conditions mentioned in that clause. The power which he proposes to give to the provincial Governments is a very wide power and the trade unions in this country will not be willing to give such power to the provincial Governments. I realise that the Honourable Member may say that the powers given to the provincial Governments are to be controlled by the Central Government. Sir I have great respect for the members of the Central Government but I am not prepared to give even then my confidence to this extent that they may lay down any conditions they like for the recognition of trade unions in this country. I therefore feel, Sir, that the Government of India have unnecessarily gone into the question of laying down conditions. The rights which they are giving to trade unions are very small rights, the fundamental primary right that belongs to every employee that he has access to his employer to discuss the conditions

[Mr N M Joshi]

of his life and work, and therefore the laying down of these conditions is not at all necessary

Sir, there are other smaller matters in this Bill to which I shall refer very briefly. The Government of India propose in this Bill to establish an industrial court in order to judge whether a trade union seeking affiliation has fulfilled the conditions laid down in this Bill. Here again the Government of India desire to keep power in their own hands. They are willing to appoint an industrial court and they ask the court to judge an application and make recommendations to Government. Now after the industrial court has made a recommendation what else can the Government of India judge upon? They are not willing to trust the industrial court, they simply say that the court should make a recommendation to the Government of India, and if the Government of India are satisfied, then only they will grant rights of recognition to that body. What are the Government of India going to do to be satisfied? They will depend on some other information which has not been placed before the industrial court. I therefore feel that the Government of India are needlessly increasing their own responsibilities by not trusting the industrial court. I suggest that they should trust that court and not increase their own responsibilities. I am quite sure that the Honourable Labour Minister will himself not like to take up this responsibility of sitting in judgment on the recommendation of the industrial court.

Mr. President: I believe it is not the Government of India but the appropriate Government which is given power, and it may include the Government of India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Unfortunately the Government of India also happen to be the appropriate Government in respect of certain industries.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Now it is certainly appropriate!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes Sir, the Honourable Member is providing not only for the grant of recognition but also for the withdrawal of recognition, and there he makes a suggestion by his Bill that if a trade union goes on an irregular strike the recognition should be taken away. In my judgment this irregular strike, as is defined in this Bill, is an internal matter of a trade union. The recognition of a trade union cannot be withdrawn because an officer of the trade union breaks the constitution of that trade union.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If no disciplinary action is taken against that officer.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is an internal business of the trade union.

Mr President, I have placed my general views before the Assembly on this question. The subject of this Bill is a very difficult one but I have no doubt that if all the members of the Select Committee consider this question only from the point of view of the interest of the working classes of this country, we may be able to arrive at conclusions which may be acceptable to the working classes. Therefore Sir, I support the motion for sending this Bill to the Select Committee, and I have every hope that the Bill as will emerge out of the Select Committee will be acceptable to the working classes in this country.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I rise to support the motion for circulation and in doing so I feel I am doing it in the ultimate interest of labour. By circulation we do not propose to delay as was suggested by Prof. Ranga but what we want really is to have on the Statute Book a complete legislation in the matter of recognition of trade unions and in the matter of relation of labour with the Employers' organisations here. I do not want to dilate on the issue whether this is a complete codification required for a civilized country, or not. On that question my Honourable friend Dr Zia Uddin has made certain suggestions. He pointed out the way in which labour would be satisfied and how labour unions should be organised.

Then, Sir, I want to discuss how the Bill stands today. My Honourable friend, Mr Ishaq Seth, in moving his motion for circulation made a very able speech and said that although this Bill was circulated for public opinion the time given for eliciting public opinion was too short. It was done probably by an executive order. Besides, in doing so this draft Bill was not sent for opinion to many important organisations which are interested in the issues involved in the Bill. We find that this draft Bill was not sent to the Associations of Muslim merchants either in Bihar, Ajmer, U P, or for the matter of that in any other province. The Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Bihar, and similarly so many other Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Muslim Labour organisations do not know about this, and the Government, intentionally or otherwise, did not send a copy of the draft Bill to them for eliciting their opinion. Of course the draft Bill was sent for opinion to the Bihar Chamber of Commerce which is an organisation of merchants of nationalities other than Muslims. So we find that the Muslim organisations in the country have not been given a chance to express their opinion on this draft Bill. How and why it has happened I am not concerned with that. In the circumstances I hope the House will agree with us that this is one of the reasons why this Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion once again.

My Honourable friend, Mr Ishaq Seth, in moving the motion said that we do not propose to indulge in any dilatory tactics, and the circulation of this Bill will not cause any unreasonable delay. We want that opinions should be called for by the end of February and if we proceed with the Select Committee immediately after that, it will take approximately the same time for its passage as it will take now. There may be a difference of few weeks, but it will not make any material difference. That is also one of the grounds on which we have every reason to suppose that the House will agree with us in the matter of circulation. I am saying this once again as I wish to dispel from the minds of some Honourable Members the idea that we have brought this motion of circulation in order to delay the passage of this Bill.

We have full sympathy for every legislation which is meant for the betterment of labour conditions, but at the same time we have got to give serious consideration as this legislation may bring on a certain class or community in India.

Now I will make certain observations on the merits of the Bill. Clause 28D provides

"A trade Union shall not be entitled to recognition under this Act, unless it fulfils the following conditions, namely —

* * * *

(c) that its rules do not provide for the exclusion of members on communal or religious grounds "

Mr Ishaq Seth has already referred to the Resolution which I moved in 1943 with regard to the recognition of Muslim Labour Unions. It was not the first time when such a resolution was moved. I have been doing so since 1939 onwards, and other members of the Muslim League Party have also been moving resolutions on this subject practically every year in the Budget Session since a long time. In reply to my speech on the resolution which was moved by me, in 1943 in this House Mr Raper said that it was done by an order of the Government of India, but there was nothing on the Statute Book with regard to non-recognition of Commercial Unions. He said

"In the State Railway Code, Volume I, it is provided that recognition will not ordinarily be granted to any association unless it complies with the following conditions —

- (1) It must consist of a distinct class of Government employees, and
- (2) All Government employees of the same class must be eligible for membership "

[Mr Muhammad Nauman]

In spite of this Government of India debarred members of any community to join themselves into a union because the Government was influenced by other sections of the people here. This legislation proposed is a deviation even from that position, for it seeks to bring on the Statute Book a legislation which debars a union from being recognised if it consists of people of a particular community. That is a very peculiar thing to do. I will now compare the conditions with other countries where probably the national and religious issues are not so diverse as in this country, and I would like to point out that even in the European countries where such feelings are not quite so strong as in India you will notice that there are trade unions recognised by Government which consists of a certain class and community. I will quote certain instances which my Honourable friend Dr Zia Uddin has included in his book on the Indian Railways. In Holland there are at present seven principal Unions and the three most important of them are Netherlands' Federation of Trade Unions having 190,179 members, Roman Catholic Workers Federation having 90,475 members and Netherlands' Federation of Christian Trade Unions having 48,327 members. These unions do definitely prohibit the admission of Jews or for the matter of that in the Roman Catholic Workers Federation of any Christians but Roman Catholics and yet they are recognised unions by the Government of the time there.

In Holland even Communists' Unions are recognised. In England the Jews have a separate Union called Jewish Bakers' Union. In Holland 4 M.P. they have a separate Union for diamond workers. In Poland they were not allowed to become members of the Socialist Union. They organised themselves in a general Union for all the professions. In this Jewish Federation only Jews can become members and it is recognised by the Government.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan)]

In Italy and Germany the Unions have all combined under the influence of Mussolini and Hitler. Even the Roman Catholic Unions in Italy have been merged into a General Union, an agreement has been reached between the Pope and Mussolini. The sentiments of Catholic religion have been accepted by Mussolini. But before that the Italian Union and the Christians were different from the Union of Jews, and the Jewish Bakers' Union was also a recognised organisation. I would ask the Honourable Member in charge of Labour to place before me the constitution of any legislation in Europe or in any other part of the world where it is written that a certain class or community cannot get recognition because the union consists of a particular community or people of a particular religion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But have they asked for this sort of recognition?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: They have.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Certainly not!

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: If Prof. Ranga is trying to plead ignorance, I can only cite facts. I can plead my case but I cannot carry conviction if he is not prepared to be convinced.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But give facts. It is no use abusing.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I am quoting the particular names of the unions. I am quoting the countries and their membership. What else you want me to do?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association Indian Commerce). Is there compulsory recognition there of communal unions?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: But they are recognised unions. They are recognised by the Government of the day. They are recognised by the Governments of Italy, Holland and Germany. Whether recognition is compulsory or optional is a matter for your own research.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Do not listen to Prof Ranga Go ahead!

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: This is a very peculiar clause which has been attempted to be introduced into this country. If you look to the labour legislation of England, you will not find any clause like that where the rules do not provide for the exclusion of members on communal or religious grounds. The mere fact that there is no clause on the statute book on labour legislation in England and Germany means that any union can be organised with any other limitation they may chose to have. I do not suppose that any organization of the textile mills or railways will have a quarrel as to why they have called the Road-Rail Union instead of saying it a Railway Union or 'A Textile Union'. There could not be any argument to say that it should not be recognised because the members as a rule are wearing a certain particular garment and that others not dressing in that way are to be eligible for membership of that union.

Mr. Vadlal Lalubhar: But there are communal unions here!

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: There are, but they are not recognised. On the Statute Book so far there was no bar against them. But now the Government of the day is proposing to bring a bar against the recognition of a union which consists of a particular community or people of a particular section or religion. That, Sir, is a position which we cannot accept in any case. I do not want to dilate on this issue and quote the entire history of the national denominations in this country and the point of view that the Mussalmans and the Muslim League hold because that is too open a secret and I do not want to take the time of the House in discussing it over and over again. I wanted to impress upon the House that there is no legislation in any part of the world with regard to the recognition of a union which has got a clause that a particular section or a group of people forming a union will not have recognition. The other point which I want to make and which I have made by citing examples that in all parts of the world instances are not lacking where the membership is restricted to a particular section of people of a certain community or religion and those unions are recognised by the Governments of the day. Also they are recognised by the employers and industrialists in their own way in all other countries. I do not want to give names probably I do not know many. But the few I know I do not want to expose them here. Even in Manchester and Lancashire those mills do recognise certain unions which have got their membership limited to a certain particular section of christianity. They do not object to the fact that a certain particular union is meant for Roman Catholics or Protestants or for the Jews. But in this case, if we place this clause on the Statute Book, it will mean that no section of the people of this country will be able to organise a union and say that persons of other community will not have a right of entrance. Professor Ranga was trying to say that it is only a question of predominancy. It can be predominantly Hindu or Muslim. Predominantly it may be anything but an organisation has got to have some basic principles.

My lady friend, Miss Kara was trying to say where is the issue that one labour union may have a different ideology from the ideology of another union of a section or community, meaning, where is the question when Muslim employees may have different issues as against the Hindu employees. But probably she does not know that there are many instances and many questions about leave and holidays that we have got absolutely different problems distinctly different from Hindus and people of many other religions. During the Ramzan, the Muslim labourers require that they should have one or two hours recess earlier than the others. Whereas this is not the question with the Hindu labourer. About Juma Prayer, celebration in Id and other festival, leave rules, have to be different.

Then again, Miss Kara was trying to say something about which she was not fully acquainted. In Calcutta it has happened that over 500 to 600 Muslim labourers have been dismissed from the mills by the Hindu industrialists on the ground that they were Muslims. I can cite several cases from the railway records. I say that all the cases that the Railwaymen's Federation has been

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bringing up have been concerning Hindus and mostly against the interests of the Muslim employees. If in spite of those things, someone says that we cannot see eye to eye, he is not speaking the truth. He knows the facts but he does not want to confess it. That is the trouble. What more facts are we to place before the House when the House knows that the Members of this House have their own separate existence on religious grounds, we have developed a position in this country in which a separate organisation of the two nations Hindus and Muslims has got to be maintained in every sphere of activity. That has been in the past and we have done it now in spite of the fact that the Government has not recognised different railway unions of the Muslims and the railwaymen's federation cannot claim more than one per cent of Muslim representation just as the Congress claim representation in their own group. That is the position I want to clear. I would request the House to face the reality and see that we cannot have any harmony in this country unless we do recognise the rights and privileges of the few sections of people living in this country, say the Hindus, the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes. They will remain where they have been all through the past.

My friend Mr Gadgil was trying to tell you that this Bill has been prepared by a Scheduled Caste Representative, Dr Ambedkar. It is not important to us who it was that prepared it. It has always been the British influence which brought the Bills. The present Government should face realities in a more real manner than was done by Dr Ambedkar and others. If this combination of the Interim Government is also going to behave in the same manner as Dr Ambedkar's group did I would only say that I do not know what is going to happen to this country. I am not prepared to accept the position that this was a Bill which took any cognisance of the situation in this country or that its authors thought what effect it will have on the members of the different nationalities, which includes the Scheduled Castes also as a separate nation. Whether we like it or not the fact remains as it is today. I think the House will agree, if the Bill is sent for circulation, as the mover has said this morning, this Government will also be able to have a little more time to think over the clauses and come to the House with better facts and figures and face the position in which we are placed today. I do not want to take much more time of the House and with these words I support the circulation motion.

Sir Gowasjee Jehangir: Sir, I was very sorry to hear my old friend Mr Joshi say that he was getting too old to bring new unions into existence and to fight an honourable and legitimate against the employers. I can only express the hope that he will live long to organise more unions and continue these healthy and honest fights.

Now, Mr Deputy President, I think the range of the discussion on this Bill has been fairly wide. As I read the Bill the main object of it is to lessen the chances of strikes in this country and it is as a subsidiary to the Bill that the Honourable Member has just introduced the Industrial Disputes Bill. Everybody sympathises with any legislation which is brought before this House or a provincial House whose object is to lessen the chance of strikes and industrial disputes in this country. But, Sir, as I said, the discussion on the Bill has ranged over a wider field. Personally I will not dispute the right of a union, the right of any association, the right of any collection of men to discuss politics or to express their views freely on the political future of their country. But the point is, how far are unions likely to make political objects the reasons for strikes? If unions are allowed to use political objects as an instrument for strikes they will be bad unions but if unions are brought into existence and they continue to be in existence for the purpose of ameliorating the conditions of the workmen in any particular industry, they are well justified, however much they may fight against the employer. I can imagine a strike engineered for a purely political purpose. The Union may advocate a socialistic principle. It has every right to do so. It has every right to carry on propaganda for an ultra socialistic purpose. But has it a right to create a strike in an industry in order to further that propaganda? That is the question that I ask and I answer it definitely in

the negative. I will give you an instance that has come very prominently to my notice very lately. There is a threatened strike in a part of India by the whole of a particular industry—I will not call it an industry, it is not exactly an industry—but by a whole class of employees and they have produced what they call a Charter of Rights. That Charter of Rights is now before an Industrial Disputes Court. Two of these rights that they demand are

(1) That the dividends paid by that class of company shall be limited to a certain small percentage on the capital value of the shares and that the profits of that company after paying those limited dividends shall be divided half and half between the staff and the reserves of that company.

Sgt. N V Gadgil: That is very moderate!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The second demand is that there shall be two Directors on the Board of the company appointed over the said. Now, Sir, I have not the slightest objection to any union advocating a share in the profits for its employees; no, here I have objection to any union or any congress of unions advocating that the employees should have representation on the administration of a company. But I strongly object to a strike being sanctioned for the purpose of these two objects which are of all-India importance, which can only be discussed by the legislature and by Government. Objects which are of a character which should not be used to foment strikes, objects which should be advocated which should be propagated both inside and outside the legislature and objects which should be enacted in the law of the land. Such demands in that character are in contravention of the articles of association of the company and the provisions of the Companies Act. Notwithstanding that, these two demands have been clearly laid down in this charter of rights with a threat of strike behind it.

Therefore there is a great difference between saying that unions shall not take part in politics and unions shall not make political demands the reasons for strikes. I contend the latter is the correct view—that unions or congresses of labour unions may discuss politics as much as they like. In England the present political life of the country has been built up by unions and congresses of unions. Today the Labour Government is in power in England, due to the work of those trade unions, but labour never threatened strikes in England in order to attain their object. They attained their object by laborious and hard work of propaganda, by converting people to their point of view—not with a pistol at their heads. That is the difference between what Mr Griffiths advocated and what some others say they want to do. I would suggest that trade unionism in this country has gone far ahead since the time of the Labour Commission. To deny that fact would not be keeping our eyes open to the present labour position in this country. Unions are freely recognised by the industry today. I admit that 25 years ago, when the Labour Commission was sitting, industry was reluctant to allow the formation of unions and far more to recognise them. But today any legitimate union is freely recognised by employers. I can say that from experience and with some authority with regard to my own part of the world—Bombay. To make a bold assertion that India is today where she was 25 years ago with regard to labour agitation is making a statement that is not correct. In those days the only representative of labour in this House was my old Honourable friend Mr Joshi. Today we have ladies representing labour and an Honourable friend behind me who can speak in a voice that can be heard not only in this House but outside without the aid of a loud speaker. Do you mean to tell me that today labour's voice is not heard in this House or outside this House, as it might not have been 25 years ago? Have they made no advance? Nobody can swallow that statement. The strikes all over the country are proof of the advancement of labour—a bad proof, an unwholesome proof. It is in order to prevent that that such legislation is brought before this House, but that is a very different thing to asserting boldly that labour has made no advance, and if labour has made an advance let me repeat that it was due to the work of men like my friend Mr Joshi—and I repeat without hesitation—I do not wish to pay my old friend of forty years' standing unnecessary compliments—but I really assert

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir]

that if we can get labour leaders of his calibre, of his sincerity, and of his honesty of purpose, labour never shall regret having a leader. But is that possible? Is that likely? The answer must be in the negative. As has been said, one of the reasons why labour unions and labour organisations have not advanced as they should have done in the last 25 years is that we have not had labour leaders of the proper calibre. Let us avoid that. Let us get away from that. Do not make labour suffer for want of honest leadership. Do not let labour be out of work for a day for reasons other than their complete and entire benefit. Let that be the foundation of the Bill or any Bill that the Honourable Member may bring before this House. It is possible—it is a fact, that there are some black sheep amongst employers as there are amongst labour leaders. Nobody is perfect in this world, nor are there any class of people that is perfect, and I am prepared to admit that there have been and are employers of labour who are prepared to sweat labour if they can. I am prepared to admit that let my labour friends on the other side willingly admit that labour leadership is not so easy and that a little more honesty in labour leadership will do no harm to this country, as a little more honesty amongst the employers of labour. Both go together.

I am also of the opinion that compulsion in any form between labour and employers is not a good thing. I am prepared to admit that there are cases or have been cases where employers have refused to admit unions for the simple reason that they do not like unions. I am prepared to admit that. But for a few black sheep, to introduce principles which may do harm ultimately is not an issue that should be considered lightly. If there is a *via media* such as the one suggested by my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths, I am sure that the Select Committee that has been appointed will produce a Bill that will satisfy all.

But there is one point I would like to make. Do not rush labour legislation through legislatures without mature consideration and consultation. We are suffering from that in my province. A very important piece of labour legislation was driven through the local legislature without circulation and without a select committee. A similar sort of legislation has been introduced by my Honourable friend a couple of days ago. Do not let him attempt to push it through this House as my Government pushed it through the local legislature. I think he will do well to allow it to be discussed, to be considered and improved in every direction. In most things consultation is advisable. In labour legislation it is absolutely necessary. You must know all points of view and it is not possible to get all points of view expressed in this Honourable House—it is only when experts in each direction apply their minds to each clause of a Bill that you get the real significance of that clause, and to push Bills through without circulation and without a select committee will result in nothing but harm to the country. That is the note of warning I do sound after some bitter experience. If this Bill, when it becomes an Act, is going to lessen the chances of strikes in this country, every Honourable Member of this House ought to give it his blessing.

Sjt N. V. Gadgil: Mr Deputy President, I rise to support the motion moved by the Member in charge for reference of the Bill to the Select Committee. In doing this I am guided by one consideration, namely, whether this Bill will secure peace in industry. A motion has been made on behalf of the Muslim League Party that the consideration of this be postponed and the Bill be circulated to elicit opinion thereon. I only want to point out to my friends the urgency of this Bill. In fact, this Bill should have been passed in the last Assembly session. You will be surprised to know that in the course of the first six months of this year there were 985 labour disputes—185 in January, 180 in February, 160 in March, 185 in April, 180 in May, 145 in June. Now, 12,97,886 workers were involved in this. The man hours lost, come to 62,64,048. Now, out of 985 disputes, only 40 per cent were for better wages and out of the remaining, quite a substantial number of them was for petty matters and if there

had been a machinery for joint consultation through recognised unions, probably there would have been less trouble in the industrial world of India.

My Honourable friend Mr. Abdus Sattar stated that the public did not have enough time to express itself so far as the merits of this Bill are concerned. I understand that this Bill has been before the country for more than two years. In any case, since this was introduced in the last session, more than six months have elapsed and those who were interested in labour problems have certainly studied it in greater details and they have not complained lack of time to express their views and submit their opinions on the merits of the Bill, but assuming that there may be some still left, some who are very earnest and who sincerely want to give some suggestions towards the solution of the problem which everybody knows to be very serious, I suggest a course which was adopted by this House when the Bill to amend the Indian Motor Vehicles Act was under consideration. The House accepted a reference to the Select Committee on the understanding that the Select Committee should meet after a couple of months and during that interval by executive order the Government could invite opinions thereon. Some such course is easily possible and I am sure Government will not find it difficult to accept this but I submit that the matter is really urgent and if the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Abdus Sattar is accepted it means that this matter will not come before the House anyway before the end of February 1947. Everybody knows that the month of March is exhausted in the consideration of the budget proposals and the Finance Bill and other matters which may be very urgent will get top priority then. It will virtually mean that this Bill will not reach the statute even in the winter session of 1947. I know my friend Mr. Sattar for a dozen years and I do not want to suggest that he has my intention to obstruct the passage of the Bill but the constructive suggestion that I have made I am sure, will meet with his approval and I am sure he will contribute whatever suggestions he has in the deliberations of the Select Committee.

With respect to the other item which was urged with more heat than light by my old friend Mr. Naiman. I want to tell him that economic interests do not coincide with religious interests. It must be his experience, as it is mine, that Hindu zamindars make no distinction between their Hindu tenant and Muslim tenants and Muslim zamindars between their Hindu tenants and Muslim tenants. Even in this House we have found, when it is a question that touches one's pocket, there is no regard paid to questions of caste, creed or religion.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) : On colour.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil : I accept the amendment of my friend, the Finance Member—on colour. Now, I would only tell my Honourable friend that he should have no objection to what is stated in this Bill, because that is intended to keep the solidarity of the working class. I just pose a question for him. If the employer happens to be a Hindu—and employers are all alike—he can encourage two unions on religious and racial lines and can play off one against the other and thereby get on with his work without giving anything either to the Muslim Union or the Hindu Union. My Honourable friend will find that in the interest of the workers themselves a provision of this character is necessary. He seems to be under the misapprehension that if such a clause is ultimately accepted and put in the Act that may be finally passed, it will not be possible to start unions purely on religious grounds. In the first place there should be no unions on such grounds. Have we not had enough of "Muslim pan" and "Hindu pan"? Do you want Muslim unions, Hindu unions, Brahmin unions and unions of the 340 castes which, I am told, exist in this country. In the second place, if you come to the Government and you want the help of the Government, at least Government must be far above these party considerations, far above these sectional considerations, more so in the case of a Central Government the function of which is to pass what we usually term normative laws. They should be a model for the provinces or for the Constituent States whatever may be the nomenclature in the Constitution. Therefore, if this clause is incorporated, I think it is in the highest interests of the working class itself.

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It was pointed out by Mr. Nauman that this may not be liked by the scheduled castes. I notice new-found sympathy for the scheduled castes in that section of the House but that itself shows that you cannot in politics remain confined merely to religion. That implication is clear. Why not extend it? It is a good principle and none should be ashamed of it. It should be constructively handled and incorporated in our social life no less in our political life. I may however point out to him that this Bill was introduced by the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar, himself a leader of a certain section—and an important section—of the scheduled castes. Obviously he could not have introduced it before putting it before the Government of the day and we must presume, till the contrary is proved, that it was approved by that Government. If that Government thought it wise that it was a good piece of legislation, I do not think anything has happened between then and now to necessitate any change in that view or in that outlook.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman Do you accept everything that that Government thought to be wise?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil I therefore submit for the consideration of this House that let us not be affected by considerations which are extraneous but let us judge it from the view point of the working classes.

Now, Sir, what is the main object of this Bill? The main object of it is to facilitate the solution of trade disputes or questions that may arise between the employers and the employees. As has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the demand for a statutory recognition has come from the labour section from the labour leaders. My friend Mr. Griffiths said that recognition must be purely a voluntary act and that it must not be based on fear of State. Assume that the employers do not consent and do not voluntarily grant recognition what then? If the State has to interfere and thereby to all influence that can successfully interfere between the employers and the employees in a nation, then the State to which both the parties owe and must owe allegiance must interfere. Now if there are questions on which parties don't agree, what should be the machinery to resolve the differences? The employer may say. Here is a man who has nothing to do with labour, he has come here to try his political philosophy and is creating trouble in these factories or in that industry. The labour unions may reply that it is not so. If we have not got real grievances, it does not matter who represents them. But if the grievances are substantial, if they are real, apart from the personal philosophy of the representatives they have got to be considered on their merits. In case of such a dispute, who is to decide? It can be settled through consultation. Only through some machinery of conciliation, peace and progress in the industry are possible and not otherwise. We must put our heads together and evolve a mechanism which will answer that purpose. As I said before you cannot have any other agency except the State and the State must have an agency in judicial in character as possible to consider whether a particular thing is reasonable or not. Recognition must be based on reason and that is exactly what has been laid down as the proper condition of recognition in the report of the Royal Commission on Labour.

Admittedly the State has a right to interfere, we are not going back to the philosophy of laissez-faire where there is perfect freedom of contract. It is no longer valid and no longer respectable, although in their heart of hearts many of the employers will like to have it. The State interference has come to stay. When industries of the modern character are being set up in this country, the corresponding reactions in the labour world are bound to take the same lines as they have taken in Western countries where they have gone through the process of industrialisation. If in the early stages trade unionism has not come up to a standard which was expected, the fault is not with the workers nor even with those who led them. The fault is more with the employers who are, on any hypothesis, better educated and who obviously know more. I want to know from my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths what the employers as a class in this country have done in order to encourage a proper spirit of trade unionism. On

the contrary, as appears from the report of the Royal Commission on Labour, pretending to agree with the general theory of trade unionism, they made much of the difficulties and have not shown any love for recognition. And that was not the attitude of the private employer only, it was also the attitude of the Government of the day. After the taking over of the railways in this country by the Government, the Government virtually became the biggest employer.

You will permit me, Mr. Deputy President, if I make a reference to what happened in the case of the G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union after the strike in 1930. I was one of the members of the Strike Committee and the whole trouble started with recognition. The strike ended, it was called off. For nearly a year and a half the Government was not prepared to restore recognition and I had an occasion then to interview one of the highest officials in the Railway Department. He was good enough when I got down at the Victoria Railway Station to come and receive me, but during the conversation he said that if we have X in our Executive Committee, we might not have recognition. That was the attitude of the Government of the day then. Therefore, when I say that the employers, whether private or the Government, have not done anything, except very recently, to encourage real trade unionism in this country, I am only stating what is the truth.

Now, Sir, recognition undoubtedly confers some status. Are not Employers' Associations very anxious to get representation on every committee that Government may appoint for the consideration of some trade question or industrial question either here or outside? They always get the ear of the Government. There are Chambers of Commerce and they always like to be put on the list of Government invitees. Why should not that ambition, if at all it is an ambition, be entertained by workers? In the case of workers recognition is a necessity. Why should they not feel that in industry they must have a recognised status? After all, which is the real source of production? Not mere materials. As was well said by my Honourable friend Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, materials will remain materials, coal will remain in the womb of the earth, the corn will remain in the field, cotton will remain in the godown, unless the workers' hands touch them and turn them into consumer goods. Does it not mean that it is really human labour that really gives everything its utility and worth? It is very regrettable that that factor of production, the most important factor of production is most neglected. I think it is time that it must come into its own. It is very good to preach the philosophy that after all industry is a joint enterprise in which capital and labour, like the lion and the lamb must come together and work for the mutual and common benefit. That is a good idea. But the point is, that it is expected of one party only to live up to that idea. When the question of wages comes up before us, we are always told that you must take into consideration the capacity of the industry to pay. But when we say that a man who works from morning till dusk must have enough to live, apart from any leisure which your system may not allow him, he at least must have enough to live and when he makes a modest claim for that, then in nine cases out of ten, it is turned down. Therefore, if he exercises his right as a citizen to combine and its collateral right to refuse to work till conditions are improved, you cannot say that he is acting against the industry or he is acting against the good of the country. Is he not included in the country? Has he nothing to do with the country? Is he simply to slave and sweat for my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths to live in a luxurious bungalow in his plantation or for Mr. Gadgil to live in some modest house in Poona? Has he no right to live at least as decently and comfortably, if not more comfortably and more decently, like any other in the middle class family? What is it you have done so far? It was only in the last Assembly session that a Bill to fix minimum wage has been introduced. I am sure it will meet with greater opposition (interruption)—wait and see—from other quarters also. It will meet with greater opposition than we are finding so far as this Bill is concerned.

Now, Sir, this recognition is tantamount to some status to the working classes as organised in unions. Whatever the nature of the organisation, whether it is vertical or whether it is horizontal, the meaning is that the worker

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must have a place, he must have a status. I know, Sir, only last year when I had an occasion to appear before the President of this Assembly, he was not then the President, in a dispute between a big engineering concern and its workers in the Deccan, the management plainly told us that if it came to closing down the entire work, they would rather prefer that than add an anna or two to the wages of the workers. So, Sir, I do not accept my Honourable friend Mr Griffith's version of the fact that the employers have changed and they have also now come to believe that even for the better running of the industry and earning more profit, good trade unionism is necessary. They are accepting it as inevitable, as an evil which they cannot avoid and if the State interferes, they always feel that the State is going beyond the orbit of its proper function. Let me tell my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths and all the employers who are here, there and behind that the right to interfere in an industry which the State has come to exercise will grow more and more and will be exercised in more and more industries in wider and wider areas. My Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir referred to an incident in which a Union demanded that there should be a hunt on the distribution of dividends, that at least two Directors should be taken from labour on the Board of Directors and he was surprised at the audacity of these suggestions.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. On a point of explanation, Sir, I am not surprised at their demand. I was surprised that they should threaten a strike in order to get this demand fulfilled.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil. The demand should not have been pressed with the threat of a strike. The remedy is to fight it out here in the Assembly.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. How is one to fight it out in the Assembly when it is a strike for an illegal purpose?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil. Up till now there has been no opportunity for labour to get into power by constitutional means. It was only recently that in the town in which my Honourable friend lives municipal franchise was granted on the principle of adult franchise. In the higher sphere labour is nowhere. When labour finds that it can by constitutional means enforce what it wants, it will certainly not be very anxious to give them up and take to means which are violent. It knows that violence very rarely pays. That is the recent experience also. But in the absence of any real remedy if workers take to strike, then certainly they have a right to strike.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. For illegal purposes?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil. What is wrong there?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. It is against the law of the land at present.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil. The law of the land made not by the representatives of the people. May I tell my Honourable friend that the validity of a law depends upon the consent of those on whom it operates. Do not go by the old Austrian principle that law is law because it has been promulgated by the government in power. That would be wrong. That is a discarded philosophy. The basis of law is the willing consent, the willing obedience of those on whose lives it operates.

Mr Deputy President: It is now five of the Clock. The Honourable Member may resume his speech tomorrow. The House will now adjourn.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 31st October, 1946.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THURSDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 1946

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 31st October, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

Mr Eric Ingoldby, C I E, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

SURPLUS MILITARY STORES

106 *Sardar Mangal Singh (.) Will the Honorable Member for Industries and Supplies please state what percentage of military stores has so far been declared surplus and how much more stores are likely to be declared surplus and when this process is likely to terminate ?

(b) Are Government aware of the difficulties of the purchasers due to the uncertainties about the total quantities of goods available in the market ?

(c) Is it a fact that certain quantities of certain goods have been destroyed by the orders of Government ? If so, will Government please state what goods have been destroyed and how much ?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai (.) It would be useful to distinguish between the surplus stores of the American Forces and others. The former have all been declared surplus. In the latter the actual declaration of material as surplus does not fall within the field of the Disposals organisation for which I am responsible, but the broad position is that about 60 per cent of the anticipated surpluses have been declared. What remains would be about 600,000 tons. So far vehicles are concerned about one third of a total estimated surplus of 1,00,000 motor vehicles of all kinds has been declared. That would indicate a residue of about 100,000. As I find the declaration of surpluses does not lie within my field and I am afraid I can give no positive prophecy as to when the declaration process will be finished. Such declarations are part of a completed background of demobilisation, military equipment policy, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. And these difficulties are frequently brought to our notice. On the other hand for reasons already given accurate forecasts of declarations are difficult. We do everything possible, however, to give wide information of what actually has been declared, for example by publishing catalogues and inviting tenders.

(c) Stores to be destroyed are either warlike stores which it would not be in the interest of public order to make available to the public such as fighter aeroplanes, arms, ammunition, explosives, etc. or certain items which have now deteriorated to such an extent as to be unfit for human consumption and in some cases dangerous. These include certain drugs, medicines and food-stuffs. Before such articles are destroyed every possibility of putting them to useful purpose is considered.

Mr. Manu Subedar In view of the importance of distributing more consumer goods to the public and also as an anti-inflationary measure will the Honourable Member give an assurance to this House that a high-level joint board of his department and the military department would sit into it in order to expedite these declarations of the still existing surpluses with the Indian army ?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai I have made some inquiries since I received the information which I put into this reply. I think the process of

declaration has really made greater progress than we have been officially informed, and I think the declaration process will be completed within a short time

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that there are vested interests at several military camps who do not desire that the particular camp which is taking care of surpluses should be disbanded, and that there are delays through departmental red-tape in the military department, would it not be advisable to have a joint high-level committee of the two departments together to go into this so as to expedite the matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I expect the declarations will be completed soon, and if so, I do not know if it would be necessary to institute a committee of the kind suggested. In case the process of declaration is delayed further than I anticipate today I should be prepared to consider the Honourable Member's suggestion.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: With reference to part (c), what is the total amount of loss on account of the destruction of these goods?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter about which I tried to get some information but I have been unable to. In regard to destroyed material it is difficult for us to get information as fully as we would like. There are certain inherent difficulties in compiling this information.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (c), is it not a fact that masses of debris of broken and smashed aeroplanes are heaped up at the Bamrauli aerodrome near Allahabad? If so, why were the aeroplanes destroyed and to what use will all these debris be put?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have no direct information on that point. I presume it is because the aeroplanes to which the Honourable Member referred fall within the particular category referred to in my reply.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know why fighter aeroplanes have been allowed to be destroyed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I expect they are dangerous things to let loose.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if fighter aeroplanes have been destroyed in all countries all over the world, or is it a danger only so far as this country is concerned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am unable to answer the question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries as to why an exception is made in this country alone?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, I will.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the reply to the latter part of (c), as to what goods have been destroyed and how much?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a question which another Honourable Member raised to which I gave the answer that in the nature of things it would be difficult to collect information which would be reliable.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member make sure that these destroyed aeroplanes could not be used for civil aviation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will look into that question.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that much material is lying in the Arsenal Depot at Jubbulpore and is being spoiled on account of weather conditions?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have no information.

Seth Govind Das: Will he enquire about it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will.

PROFITEERING BY GOVERNMENT IN THE DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN ARTICLES

107. *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state .

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made more than hundred per cent profits over their book values in the disposal of certain articles ,

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Supply Department is indulging in profiteering and thereby raising the prices in the market , and

(c) whether Government are prepared to sell such articles at cost price through their own stores, as are largely used by the public such as footwear and ready-made clothes ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No, Sir There has been to my knowledge only one case in which the disposal price exceeded the recorded book value to this extent Book values, based on original costs at different times, are in any case not necessarily a guide to the reasonableness of disposal prices

(b) No, Sir On the contrary, it is our view that a steady flow of surplus stores in the market will have a deflationary effect and check the tendency to blackmarketing

(c) Government are prepared to sell such common use items through Government shops at reasonable prices One showroom and retail shop has already been opened in Calcutta Another retail shop has been recently opened in Cawnpore A general scheme for opening more shops in these and other circles is under consideration

Prof. N. G. Ranga. Will Government consider the advisability of selling these things also through co-operative stores ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will have the matter looked into

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government find out why the suggestions made in the Disposals Committee that greater publicity should be given to the quantities sold and the prices at which goods have been sold also to the parties to whom goods have been sold by press circulars and press notes Will the Honourable Member look into it as to why this suggestion which was placed by me in the Disposals Advisory Committee in July has not been adopted and worked upon though it was accepted willingly by the whole committee including the Director of Disposals ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai. May I ask the Honourable Member about what time he made this suggestion ?

Mr. Manu Subedar: In July

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I may inform the House, as probably the House knows, that many of the problems relating to disposals are now under discussion by a high-level committee and I would like to have decisions on these questions postponed until I am in a position to examine the conclusions arrived at by this committee This committee is expected to report within a month

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is the Honourable Member aware that big quantities of military surplus cloth and clothings etc , have been given away to merchants at very cheap prices, while the same could have been given to various provinces under the quota system ?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: In order to avoid further blackmarketing

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question I take it is why these things have been disposed of at very low prices As the House realizes the question I have been asked by the Honourable Sardar Mangal Singh is why these things are being sold at unnecessarily high prices So between the two I think we are somewhere about right

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Honourable Member will make enquiries that some of the articles disposed of by the Government have not found their way to the blackmarket ?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai. The process of tracing articles that have found the way to the blackmarket is an extremely difficult process.

Sardar Mangal Singh. Will the Honourable Member also make enquiries that certain articles have been sold by the Government above the control price?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai. I have already given this general reply to that question. Since I saw the particular question I looked up the papers dealing with this subject in my office. The general position is as far as disposals up-to-date are concerned, our realizations are considerably lower than the book values of the articles in question.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad. Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that his department turned down the suggestions that I made that these articles should be sold not to one person but to different persons in different provinces so that one man should not have the monopoly and he may not pass the articles on to the blackmarket. Why was this suggestion turned down by his department?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai. It depends very largely on the type of article in question. I quite recognize the validity of the suggestion which my Honourable friend has made, but it is not possible to adopt a common method with regard to all these articles. They differ so widely that in each case you would have to determine the method to be adopted on the merits.

SINKING OF WELLS AND PUMP WELLS AS A RESULT OF "GROW MORE FOOD"

(CONTINUED)

108 *Sardar Mangal Singh. (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please tell me how many wells and tube-wells have been sunk and how much more land has been brought under cultivation as a result of 'Grow More Food Campaign'.

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India offered to raise the subsidy to 50 per cent of the cost of sinking wells but several Provincial Governments failed to avail of this offer?

(c) Is it a fact that the Punjab Government did not avail of this offer, if so, what reason they gave for their inability to accept this offer?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: (a) A statement is placed on the table.

(b) The Central Government have undertaken since September 1944 to bear half the cost of the subsidy given by Provincial Governments to cultivators for the sinking of wells provided that such subsidy does not exceed 50 per cent of the cost. In April 1946 the terms of the offer were extended to cover private tube-wells. Some provinces have not applied to the Centre for financial assistance for well sinking schemes, presumably because local conditions are unfavourable for the construction of such wells. Some Provinces have decided to give subsidies of less than 50 per cent of the cost.

(c) The Punjab had originally decided to give a subsidy of 20 per cent of the cost for constructing 5,000 surface wells and a grant of Rs 7 lakhs was sanctioned from the Centre. The Punjab have now submitted a revised scheme for the construction of 15,000 surface wells, giving a subsidy of 50 per cent of the cost of the wells. This is under examination.

Statement showing Province wise the number of open wells and Tube Wells sunk up-to-date since the inauguration of Grow More Food Campaign and the additional area brought under irrigation as a result thereof

Province	Open or Masonry wells		Tube Wells	Additional area brought under irrigation (acres)	Remarks
	Sunk	Repaired or deepened			
1 Ajmer-Merwara	24	4		168	A Scheme for the construction of 360 New Wells and deepening and improving 150 Old Wells has recently been sanctioned. It is hoped these new wells when constructed would be able to irrigate about 3,360 acres
2 Assam	.	.			Due to unfavourable local conditions construction of wells and Tube Wells was not undertaken. But 65,738 acres of additional land were brought under cultivation by construction of canals from natural Waterways, Bunds, sluice gates etc
3 Baluchistan	20	.		100	
4 Bengal					Wells have not yet been found suitable for irrigation in Bengal. The Provincial Government have started experiments for evolving out a standard character of irrigation well. Result not so far encouraging. Tube well irrigation may prove successful and the Provincial Government have formulated a Scheme for sinking Tubewells
5 Bihar	Information	not	received		

Province	Open or Masonry wells		Tube Wells	Additional area brought under irrigation (acres)	Remarks
	Sunk	Repaired or deepened			
6. Bombay	923			5,538	In addition, another 3,300 open wells are under construction which, when completed, will bring at least another 19,800 acres of land under irrigation. No Tube wells sunk as their success in the Province is rather doubtful.
7. C. P. & Berar	3,014			9,598	In addition 3,037 wells were in the process of digging on 31st May 1946 out of which 855 wells have since been completed but the information about the area brought under irrigation by these wells has not yet been made available.
8. Coorg	1			5	
9. Delhi	126	80		2,500	Construction of 280 more wells in progress which, it is hoped, will be completed within the next 3 months. These wells are estimated to bring another 4,000 acres under irrigation.
10. Madras	25,372	14,256		Information not yet available	One more Tubewell is under construction
11. North West Frontier Province			4	1,000	
12. Orissa	4,616			8,931	
13. Punjab	3,000			36,000	One thousand more wells are under construction. A Scheme for the sinking of tube wells is under consideration of the Provincial Government.
14. Sind	Information	not	received		
15. United Provinces	216		516	42,730	390 more Masonry wells are under construction and would bring under irrigation 3,900 acres more.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Government of India offered to give 50 per cent subsidy for sinking wells, but the Punjab Government did not avail of it?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: As I have explained, in the instructions that were issued in September 1944 it was made clear that the Central Government would be prepared to give half the subsidy given by the province up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the cost of the wells. The Punjab Government however decided to limit their own subsidy to 20 per cent of the cost.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that in several parts of India it is extremely costly to sink a well because of the rocky nature of the soil, will Government consider the advisability of making an exception in such cases and raising the proportion of their own subsidy?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The point was raised by the Government of Bombay and they pointed out that in some parts of the province they can get wells constructed even by giving 10 or 20 per cent of the cost and in other cases they might have to give as much as 80 per cent of the cost to ensure construction of the wells. The Central Government have agreed that so long as the total subsidy for all the wells in all the areas in the Province does not exceed 50 per cent of the cost the Central Government will share the subsidy on a 50-50 basis.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if the Government of Assam availed itself of the offer made with reference to paragraph 2 of the question?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: So far as Assam is concerned, the position is that due to unfavourable local conditions, the construction of wells and tube-wells were not undertaken, but 65,738 acres of additional lands were brought under cultivation by the construction of canals from natural waterways, bunds, dams, etc.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government aware that for want of boring instruments, pumping sets and crowbars, a number of wells have had to be abandoned after digging in the province of Madras? If so, what steps has the Government of India taken to provide these sets and other implements on a large scale?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: No such shortage has been brought to our notice but we are aware of the fact that special implements are needed for the construction of tubewells and an officer is on special duty in England at present to try and secure the new type of boring rigs which will enable wells to be constructed within a period of a fortnight each.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Secretary tell me with reference to part (a), who is the authority who can deliver these tube-well materials? Is General Bradford or Sir William Stump or the Government of India or the Disposal Directorate, because I write to one I am always shelved to the other.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It is usually a combination of all of them.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then the combination of all means zero?

President: Order, order. Next question.

VEGETABLE GHEE FACTORIES

109. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state

(a) the number of factories, province-wise, for the manufacture of vegetable ghee which have been sanctioned,

(b) whether the vegetable ghee has come to stay, or whether efforts will still be made to replace it by pure ghee, and

(c) whether Government have examined its harmful effects on the general national health of the country where an overwhelming majority of the people are already vegetarian?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Under their 'Immediate Plan' the Department of Food are assisting eighteen factories in British India of which eight are in Madras, five in Bengal, two in Bombay, and one each in Bihar, C. P. and Orissa.

(b) The Food Department, on the report of the Advisory Committee appointed by them, consider, there is no room for further expansion of the Vanaspathi Industry, in the near future.

The Agriculture Department are encouraging the Agrakul scheme for making pure ghee available.

(c) The nutritive value of Vanaspathi is subject of research, which is yet incomplete and the result of which so far obtained cannot be said to be unequivocal.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What principles were kept in view when distributing these factories?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The fat fertility in different provinces, the availability of ground-nuts and the accessibility of the markets.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that an effort was made to colour this vegetable ghee to make a distinction between the ordinary ghee and vegetable ghee?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir. Experiments have been going on for some time. Originally the idea was to add a colour. It was found that the colour would not stay under certain temperatures. So the present proposal is to have a latent colour which will react to a simple chemical test and sesame oil is the substance to be added to Vanaspathi in future.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government take steps to prevent the use of the word ghee in connection with this vegetable product in all advertisements, in official correspondence and elsewhere in order to safeguard the public interest in the natural product which alone is entitled to be called ghee?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We will consider that suggestion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member in keeping with the allocation of these plantations, as such, has not been adopted as a policy of the Central Government, as a guide but instance the flow of capital to the persons in the province and allow persons from Northern India to open vegetable plants in Southern India, making the allocation futile to the province?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is entirely a separate matter and the Provincial Governments have a good deal to say in it. The Honourable Member is referring to a factory to be established in Madras, the matter has been discussed by us with the Madras Government and as far as I recollect, the Madras Government have agreed to the original proposal we made.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the original proposal that the Honourable Member has made? Is it that Birla and others should be allowed to start factories there?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir. That was the original proposal, but some of the capital for that factory will now come from the local capitalists.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why not entrust it to local capital when it is plentifully available? On what basis have they shown preference to capitalists from Northern India? (After a pause) I want an answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is greater influence in Delhi.

President: Has the Honourable Member any answer to give?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No, Sir.

President: Next question.

CATERING AND VENDING ON STATE RAILWAYS.

110. *Sardar Mangal Singh : (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government have considered the proposal that all the catering and vending on all the State Railways will be taken over by Government and worked departmentally ?

(b) If Government have decided to take over all catering and vending, when is the proposal likely to be carried out ?

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali : (a) Government have considered this matter in consultation with the Central Advisory Council for Railways who, at a meeting in April last decided, by a small majority, in favour of the principle of departmental working of all forms of catering excluding Vendors' Sub-committee which was appointed to examine the question of classification of refreshment rooms and location of other forms of dining facilities, has since recommended a case departmental catering because it is considered that, in existing circumstances, change over to departmental catering would not prove beneficial. This and other recommendations of the Sub-Committee will shortly receive the consideration of the Central Advisory Council on Railways.

(b) Government will take the final decision after the Central Advisory Council have further considered the matter.

Mr Muhammad Nauman. May I know, Sir, is Government aware that these contractors have been roaming about the premises of this House and going to all Member since the last two or three Sessions and trying to use all influence to their point of view ?

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali : The information is being imparted to the Government now.

Mr N M Joshi : May I ask whether the Government of India will consult the Legislature before coming to a decision on this question ?

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali : If that is the wish of the House, they certainly will, but as far as I can judge, it will be quite sufficient if the Government of India come to their final decision after consulting the Central Advisory Council on Railways.

Mr N M Joshi : The Legislature is very much interested in this.

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali : The Legislature will have to vote for it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Is the Honourable Member aware that at the first meeting of the Advisory Council, the General policy was laid down that catering must be taken up departmentally and a Sub-committee was appointed to work out details ? If, therefore, he had no right to pass a remark that it ought not to be taken up by the State ?

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali : That is a matter which should be raised at the meeting of the Central Advisory Council when the report of the sub-committee is submitted to it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : May I know if it is not the policy of this Government to take up all these matters departmentally when two administrations the M & S M and S I Railways have already been running all these refreshment rooms departmentally ?

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali : Government must consult every one concerned before they come to any conclusion and as that is why the Central Advisory Council has been created. We must know the views of the Central Advisory Council on the subject before we come to any conclusions. We cannot possibly form a policy without any reference to the Central Advisory Committee on this point.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : May I know who are the members of this Committee ?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Mr Yamin Khan is the Chairman and the members who attended the meeting of the Sub-Committee were Messrs

Trimal Rao, Jagan Nath Das and S N Sinha, and A Mohan represented the Railway Board

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Would not the Government consider it very dangerous, in view of the fact that contractors have been roaming and prowling in the corridors and lobbies of this House, to allow this House to vote on a purely administrative matter like catering of *jalebi* and *kabab roti*?

Mr. President: It is a matter of opinion

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: On a point of order, Sir can the Honourable Member put a question when he is not in his seat?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that three years ago the Central Advisory Council for Railways had down a definite policy that no contractor will be given more than two divisions but the Government of the day flouted the decision and did not act upon it? It meant only that Government acts upon such advice as is

Mr. President: What is the question?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The question is, is the Honourable Member aware of this fact, that this is what has happened?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I want notice of that question. Unfortunately it does not arise out of the question which has been put to me today

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I did not hear any answer to the question that I had asked

Mr. President: He wants notice

SUPPLY OF COPIES OF ORDERS TO ILLITERATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

111. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether copies of orders on personnel or other matters are supplied to Railway employees, if not, why not,

(b) whether it is a fact that all official letters on matters relating to employees are addressed to their superiors in charge, and that illiterate employees find it difficult to have copies, and

(c) whether it is proposed to issue instructions to Railway officers to issue two copies of an order, one of which to be supplied to the employees concerned, if not what other steps Government propose to take to see that employees, specially those who are illiterate, get copies of orders?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) Every order imposing a penalty on a railway servant is communicated to him in writing. Orders regarding postings, transfers, promotions, etc., which are personal to individuals, are addressed to the official in charge who is required to obtain the initials of the person concerned, if literate, in token of having received the order. In the case of illiterate persons, the order is verbally communicated to the person concerned by the official in charge. Orders of general interest are invariably published in the Railway Gazette for the information of all concerned. Government have no information to show that illiterate employees generally have difficulty in obtaining on request copies of orders on matters personal to them.

(c) Government propose to examine the matter to see to what extent the proposal of the Honourable Member in the first part of the question is administratively practicable.

HOLIDAYS TO ADMINISTRATION CLERKS IN THE SIND AREA OF N.W. RAILWAY

112 *Seth Spkhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Administration Clerks in the Sind Area of the North Western Railway neither enjoy Sind Government holidays nor those given

by the North Western Railway Administration in the remaining Divisions of their system, if so, why,

(b) the sanctioned number of holidays during 1946 for—(i) the Karachi Division (Sind Area), (ii) the Sind Government, (iii) the Punjab Government, and (iv) the North Western Railway Administration for the rest of the Divisions of the Railway System; and

(c) if the difference between the holidays given in the Karachi Division and other Divisions is considerable, what steps Government propose to take to remove the anomaly?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (i) and (c) Presumably the Honourable Member means that the clerks of the Divisional Offices in Karachi Division do not enjoy all the holidays given by the Sind Government or those enjoyed by the other Divisions of the Railway. If so the reply is in the affirmative. The staff of the offices at the headquarters of the various Divisions of the North Western Railway are normally granted the holidays notified by Provincial Governments under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act of 1881, except the holiday granted on account of the Bank's half-yearly closing. The grant of additional sectional and local holidays to staff of Divisional Offices is left to the discretion of the Divisional Superintendents. The cause of the difference between the holidays enjoyed by the staff of the Karachi Divisional Office and other Divisional Offices of the N. W. Railway is being enquired into and the information when received will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) The sanctioned number of holidays during 1946 is as follows:

(i) Karachi Division	23
(ii) Sind Government	32
(iii) Punjab Government	28
(iv) Divisional Offices other than Karachi	27

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POST OF CHIEF MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER ON RAILWAYS

113 *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chief Medical and Health Officer of a Railway is to be held by a person possessing the degree of D.P.H.,

(b) whether any rule exists to this effect, if so, whether Government propose to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House,

(c) whether it is a fact that the post of the Chief Medical and Health Officer, North Western Railway is being given to an officer who does not possess the degree of D.P.H.,

(d) whether it is a fact that this officer is a European and that the appointment was made by the Cairetake Government

(e) whether Government are aware that the policy hitherto followed by the Railway Board is to give preference to Europeans on the plea of possessing British qualifications, but when Indians possess better qualifications, seniority is considered as the determining factor, and

(f) what steps Government propose to take to recognise qualification as a prerequisite for promotion to the post of the Chief Medical and Health Officer, if none, why?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of Rule 127 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. 1, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, a District Medical Officer shall not ordinarily be considered eligible for promotion unless he possesses a Degree or Diploma in Public Health. The orders prescribing this condition were issued on the 8th January 1930, and, as stated in the reply to parts (b) and (c) of Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava's Starred Question No. 180, asked on the 5th April 1946, the condition has been relaxed in favour of those Medical Officers who joined service before the date of the orders.

(c) Yes, but the officer is covered by the relaxation mentioned in my reply to parts (a) and (b)

(d) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative and to the latter portion in the negative

(e) Government do not accept the implication of this question. The policy followed by the Railway Board in making appointments to higher posts which are selection posts, is to select the most suitable officer for the post taking into consideration his qualifications, experience and seniority

(f) In view of my reply to part (c) this does not arise

PROMOTION OF UNQUALIFIED ANGLO INDIAN AND CHRISTIAN INSPECTORS OF ACCOUNTS TO THE POSTS OF ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL OFFICERS ON N.W. RAILWAY

114. *Seth Sukhdev Will the Honorable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Anglo Indian and Christian Inspectors of Accounts were taken up as Assistant Commercial Officers on the North Western Railway,

(b) whether it is a fact that, with a view to regularise this importation, these men were taken up as Commercial Inspectors to avoid their reversion from gazetted posts,

(c) whether the normal channel of promotion of the Accounts Inspectors is not in the Commercial Inspector posts or Assistant Commercial Officers, if so, the reason for this importation

(d) whether any Indian Inspectors of Accounts were considered for posts of Commercial Inspectors or Assistant Commercial Officers, if not, why not,

(e) whether it is a fact that these imported Accounts Inspectors have been placed senior to Transportation Inspectors in the selection list of Commercial Inspectors, if so, why,

(f) whether it is a fact that these imported Accounts Inspectors have passed no commercial qualifying examination from the Warton Training School, and

(g) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that no employee will be given undue preference owing to racial considerations, and what steps are proposed to be taken to revert accounts people to their own branch of service?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (a) Yes. Two Anglo Indians who were formerly Inspectors of Accounts but who were, at the time, holding respectively the appointments of Personal Assistant to the Station Superintendent, Keamari and Traffic Inspector Commercial were appointed as Assistant Commercial Officers.

(b) When a selection was held for the posts of Commercial Inspectors these two persons, who were already in the Traffic Department, were also considered along with others and were selected by a properly constituted Selection Board. Accordingly it is not correct to say that they were appointed as Commercial Inspectors to avoid their reversion from Gazetted posts.

(c) Appointment to Commercial Inspector or Assistant Commercial Officer is not in the normal channel of promotion of Accounts Inspectors. As regards the latter portion, these two men were absorbed on the Commercial side of the Traffic Department due to their extensive knowledge of the commercial conditions prevailing in the Karachi Port area and on the Karachi Division.

(d) No. Inspectors of Accounts are not considered, as a rule, for posts of Commercial Inspectors or Assistant Commercial Officers. As I have already explained, the two persons referred to in this question were actually in the Traffic Department, and not in the Accounts Department, when they were selected for Commercial Inspectors' posts.

(e) The reply is in the affirmative. These two men were placed on the selection list of Commercial Inspectors in the order of merit decided on by the Selection Board.

(f) The reply is in the affirmative.

(g) In view of my replies to the preceding parts of this question there is no ground for inferring that these two employees were given undue preference owing to racial considerations, and Government do not, therefore, consider that their reversion to the Accounts Branch is called for.

**SHORTAGE OF PASSENGER TRAINS ON NAGPUR-BHUSAVAL LINE OF
G I P RAILWAY**

115 *Mr P. B. Gole (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state how many Passenger, Mail and Express Trains were running daily between Nagpur and Bhusaval prior to the War?

(b) Is it a fact that only one Passenger and one Mail train ran between Nagpur and Bhusaval even now when it is more than 10 years after the cessation of hostilities?

(c) Are Government aware that there has always been a normal crowding of passenger traffic on the Nagpur-Bhusaval line owing to the running of only two trains?

(d) Are Government aware that the travelling public is highly inconvenienced owing to the shortage of passenger trains and that there were even deaths by suffocation owing to overcrowding?

(e) Are Government aware that several representations have been made to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway by the travelling public and by public bodies for increase in the number of Passenger Trains on the Bhusaval Nagpur Section and that the answer given by the Authorities of the said Railway is that passenger coaches are not available?

(f) Is it a fact that the Bombay, Borda and Central India Railway, the East Indian Railway, the North Western Railway and other Railways have already resumed pre-war passenger service and that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has not yet done so on other lines?

(g) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to introduce at least the Nagpur Express and one more Passenger Train in order to relieve heavy congestion of passenger traffic between Nagpur and Bhusaval?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (a) One mail, one express and three passenger trains were running between Nagpur and Bhusaval prior to the war.

(b) Yes, but I am informed that, in addition, two local services have been introduced from the 1st October 1946 one between Nagpur and Wardha, and the other between Wardha and Bhusaval to cater for local traffic, which has somewhat eased the position.

(c) Overcrowding is, I am afraid not confined to the Nagpur-Bhusaval line but is unfortunately an unavoidable feature wherever passenger train services have had to be curtailed owing to conditions brought about by the war.

(d) Both the Government and the Railway Administration are fully conscious of the inconvenience caused to the public by the lack of adequate train services, but the Railway is doing its best to restore the curtailed services as soon as possible, within the limits of its available resources. No deaths from suffocation due to overcrowding have been brought to notice.

(e) Yes.

(f) A large number of train services have been restored on all railways including the G I P Railway, though it would not be correct to say that the pre-war level was reached. The fact that the G I P Railway have increased

services elsewhere does not mean that the interests of the public in the Nagpur-Bhusaval area have been over-looked. My Honourable friend will no doubt concede that it is the duty of the Railway Administration to take a comprehensive view of the needs of the public as a whole, and to utilise its resources as they become available in the order of priority of the public need.

(g) The question of re-introducing the Bombay-Nagpur Express trains is already engaging the attention of the Railway Administration, who intend to afford the required relief as early as possible. In the meanwhile I propose to send a copy of the question and my reply to the Railway Administration concerned to bring the matter prominently to their notice.

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I know from the Honourable Member when a decision will be reached regarding the restarting of the Nagpur Express?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid I cannot set any time.

PROPOSAL FOR ABOLITION OF INTER CLASS AND REDUCTION OF RATES OF SECOND CLASS ON STATE RAILWAYS

116. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) whether Government intend to abolish the Inter class and reduce the rates of the Second class on State Railways, if so, when, and

(b) whether Government have any scheme under contemplation?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes. The date on which this alteration is to be introduced is still under consideration.

(b) Government are considering the desirability and financial implications of providing, on main lines, four classes of travel, namely, air-conditioned, 1st Class, 2nd Class and 3rd Class. On small branch lines only two classes are proposed, namely, (1) Special, (2) General. Details of the future layouts for the various classes are now in preparation. The financial implications are complicated and difficult to assess, and it is not expected that any such arrangement can be introduced without a general increase in the level of passenger fares.

Seth Govind Das: Will Government think it advisable to have only two classes—Upper and Lower—as is happening between Gondia and Jabulpore and abolish first, second and inter class?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is a very interesting suggestion, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: But will the Government consider the suggestion?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government examine the question of abolishing the first class altogether as has been suggested before in this House, particularly because air-conditioned compartments have now been introduced? Have Government considered the necessity of having both an air-conditioned and first class compartments in every train?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That will have to be examined before I can say Yes or No.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Central Advisory Council for Railways advised that the first class may be abolished and that there should be only second, inter and third classes?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid I am not in a position to answer that question at present.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know whether the Honourable Member is going to travel second class like provincial ministers or is he going to travel in his saloon?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Seth Govind Das: Will Government consider the desirability of retaining the inter class and providing sitting accommodation there?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: According to this arrangement Inter class goes out and the second class will be as good as first class

RESTORATION OF PRE-WAR RAILWAY CONCESSIONS TO PASSENGERS

117 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if Government intend to restore the various pre-war Railway concessions to travelling public, such as Return Tickets, etc? If so, when, and how many of them?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is the Government's intention that the various railway concessions enjoyed by the travelling public prior to the war shall be restored at the earliest possible moment, that is, as soon as train services and travel conditions improve sufficiently to permit of the encouragement of rail travel by the grant of concessions

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that there is a paucity of railway tickets these days, will not the Honourable Member introduce the system of return tickets charging full fare both ways so that the difficulty of securing a ticket on the return journey may be avoided?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That again is a very interesting suggestion which should be examined

Shri Sri Prakasa: Not only interesting, it is useful also!

PROVISION OF FANS AND REMOVAL OF OTHER GRIEVANCES OF III CLASS PASSENGERS ON RAILWAYS

118 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if Government intend to remove the long standing grievance of third class passengers, such as provision of fans in the compartments, adequate supply of drinking water and suitable food at stations? If so, when and in what directions?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Government have already under consideration the question of provision of fans in III class carriages and a new method of meeting the additional electric load which would be involved is under close examination by the Railway Board, but no decision has yet been reached

Instructions have been issued to railways that where possible, drinking water should be supplied on platforms by the provision of hydrants. Simultaneously "Gharras" mounted on wheeled barrows should be made available for supplying water to passengers sitting in their compartments. The North Western Railway also arrange, during summer season, for the supply of drinking water to passengers from a 3rd class compartment reserved for the purpose on most of their trains. There are also travelling watermen in these compartments who go and serve passengers with water in their own compartments. The extension of this arrangement to other railways will be shortly considered

Every effort is being made to improve the quality of food served to passengers by arranging periodical medical inspections and by inviting one or two members of Railway Local Advisory Committees to make occasional tours on the railways and offer suggestions for improvement

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that even to this date bulbs in most of the compartments and bath-rooms are missing, and if so will he take early steps to remedy this state of affairs?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am perfectly aware of that fact. In fact it is one of my complaints, that no bulbs on the B A Railway can possibly last more than 24 hours and it is for members of the public to take note of that fact and restrain those who are smashing up those bulbs

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about the M S M Railway in respect of which we have got similar complaints?

(No answer was given)

OVERCROWDING ON RAILWAYS

119 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pahwal Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the steps which Government intend to take to achieve overcrowding in Railways?

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali. To relieve overcrowding additional train services have been introduced and more will be put on as and when the resources of coaching stock and power permit. At the present moment the Army Department are absorbing a considerable number of vehicles for their use, and as these are surrendered, more stock will be available for augmenting the present services. It is the intention to seek outside assistance in the manufacture of coaching stock to tide over the present shortage, as the railway workshops are fully employed in repairing the present stock and manufacturing new stock to the limit of their capacity.

Every possible effort is in the meanwhile being made to minimise discomfort to the travelling public by the adoption of measures such as

(a) Strengthening of passenger train services by attaching extra carriages as far as available within the permissible hauling capacity of the engines.

(b) Intensive use of all available coaching stock.

(c) Vigorous efforts to prevent ticketless travel.

PROVISION FOR PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC BY THE SIDE OF ALL RAILWAY CULVERTS AND BRIDGES

120 *Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that Railway make no arrangement for pedestrians to go over their culverts and bridges at various places.

(b) whether Government are aware that due to high embankment of Railways there is water-logging at various places and pedestrians have no other method of going across except over the Railway culverts and bridges.

(c) whether Government are aware that many accidents have occurred owing to this, and

(d) whether Government propose to issue instructions to Railway Admin. stations to make proper provision for pedestrian traffic by the side of all their culverts and bridges?

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali. (a) Yes, this is so. Culverts and bridges are in general provided solely for the passage of railway traffic. In certain cases exceptions have been made and especially constructed footpaths have been added to existing structures. If, however, a new bridge is constructed or an old one regraded, Provincial Governments are consulted and they are afforded an opportunity in each case of offering to share in the cost should a combined structure be required.

(b) and (c) Government have no information. If there is any water-logging in any place due to a railway embankment the Provincial Government concerned invariably approach the Railway Department for additional accommodation works.

(d) There is an inherent objection to attracting pedestrians and perhaps cattle and cycle traffic to railway embankments etc. Even so, the Railways are always prepared to consider the provision of such facilities for the public, provided the Provincial Government or the Local Authorities requiring these facilities pay the first cost and the maintenance charges.

QUESTION RE RUNNING OF E I RAILWAY CUM G I P RAILWAY, BOMBAY-CALCUTTA
Mails VIA BENARES CANTT BETWEEN ALLAHABAD AND MOGHULSARAI

121 *Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) the progress so far made in the consideration of the question of taking the East Indian Railway cum Great Indian Peninsula Railways' Up and Down Bombay-Calcutta Mails *via* Benares Cantonment between Allahabad and Moghalsara, and

(b) if there is any intention of reopening the Chheoki Railway Station for these trains?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) For the reasons stated at length in my predecessor's letter No 3818-TT of the 29th June, 1946 to my Honourable friend, I am unable to report any tangible progress. As I understand the position, the proposal cannot be usefully considered till the reconstruction of the Dufferin Bridge has been completed.

(b) I am informed by the East Indian Railway Administration that there is no intention of re-opening the Chheoki Railway Station for these trains in the immediate future.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Can the Honourable Member inform us if there is any intention of strengthening the line between Paphamau and Janghai to enable these mails to be diverted from the Murzapore route to the Benares route?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid I could not answer that question straight off.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the only reason why this diversion is not taking place is that the Dufferin Bridge is in course of renovation or are there any other reasons? And if that is the sole reason, why was not any step taken before the renovation process began, because I have been at it for the last 23 years?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have not the slightest doubt about the fact that the Honourable Member has been at it for a long time. I have got a letter written to him by my predecessor, if he likes I can read it out to him, it gives all the reasons.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member in the meantime arrange for a through bogie to be run from Benares to Bombay by the Bombay Mails?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The question will be examined.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: In any case, in view of the great facility which that arrangement will provide for the inhabitants of a very important town in the United Provinces, will the Honourable Member ignore the fact that nothing has been done about it during the last 23 years, and apply his new energy to it and see if anything can be done in that direction now?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I will try my best.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONNECTING TRAINS AT JUNCTION STATIONS

122 * **Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that it is the policy of the Railway Administrations not to arrange for proper connecting trains at junction stations with a view to discourage travelling,

(b) if it is a fact that passengers are left for whole twenty-four hours at junction stations like Gaya, Moghalsara, Bhusaval, Itarsi, etc., due to their missing Railway connections, and

(c) what steps, if any, Government are taking or propose to take to avoid such inconvenience?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) No, both the policy and the practice are to make every effort to make sure of such connections.

(b) Cases do occur in which passengers sometimes have to wait for trains up to 24 hours at junction stations if they miss their connection due to late running of trains.

(c) The punctuality of trains is, I regret to say, still far from satisfactory. This is due to a number of causes such as heavy loads, heavy passenger and parcels traffic, bad quality coal, etc.

Railway Administrations are being constantly urged to improve the punctuality of trains and a close scrutiny is maintained by Transportation Officers on Guard's Train Journals and Train Control Charts with a view to taking prompt action in cases of avoidable delays.

I propose to send a copy of the Honourable Member's question to all principal Railways and to urge on them the necessity for redoubling their efforts to attain the maximum measure of punctuality, other factors permitting.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of what the Honourable Member has stated in reply to part (a) of the question, may I request him to examine the time table at Moghul Serai—I can lend him a copy if he likes—and see if proper connections are given for passengers from Benares to catch the 1 Up and the 11 Up and if he is satisfied with those arrangements and if they are in consonance with the principles which he has just enunciated?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am thankful for the suggestion. I shall have it examined.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that it is the vendors who manage that there shall be no connection in these important junctions?

(No answer was given.)

BREAK OF JOURNEY ON RAILWAYS

123.* Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that no break of journey is now permitted for passengers holding tickets for less than 250 miles, while formerly passengers with tickets for 100 miles or more were permitted to break journey,

(b) if it is a fact that passengers are now required to complete the minimum journey of 250 miles before they can break journey, while formerly they could break journey before travelling the minimum they held tickets for more than the requisite minimum number of miles,

(c) if Government propose and, if so, when, to bring back the old system, and

(d) whether pending the reduction of the number of miles to be travelled before break of journey is permitted Government propose at least to permit break of journey before the minimum of 250 miles is travelled by persons holding tickets for 250 miles and more?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (b) of question No 1188 asked by him in the Legislative Assembly on the 25th March 1946.

(d) No. The relaxation suggested would defeat the object of the revision of the Rule.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that much water has flown under the bridges since the date mentioned by the Honourable Member, will the Honourable Member consider the proposition afresh and could he inform us how the object of this rule is frustrated if passengers are allowed to break journey before the minimum number of miles is travelled and how it was not frustrated when this rule was not in operation?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The whole of this question was very carefully considered and I can tell the Honourable Member some of the reasons against the relaxation he is asking for. The reasons were that a check on their fraudulent use was impossible, and the change of this rule assisted the Railways in reducing overcrowding in through trains in which short distance passengers were restricted and it was expected to bring slightly more revenue.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the last the main reason?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: No, certainly not

LATE RUNNING OF RAILWAY TRAINS

124 *Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) if there is a general complaint about the late running of trains, sometimes by as many as four to six hours,

(b) the causes of this, and

(c) the steps that are being taken to meet the difficulties and ensure trains running to schedule?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Complaints regarding the late running of trains are received from time to time but cases of trains running from four to six hours late are rare

(b) The chief causes of late running are heavy loads of trains, poor quality coal and heavy passenger traffic involving detentions at stations *en route*

(c) A careful check is maintained on punctuality by Railway Administrations Guards' train journals and traffic control charts showing detentions *en route* are carefully scrutinised by Transportation Officers, avoidable detentions are taken up and suitable action is taken to avoid recurrence. A considerable increase in train services has already been effected and as further services are introduced they will relieve the pressure on trains generally, thus improving punctuality

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that it is rarely that 88 Up and 84 Down on the E I R run less than four to six hours late?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not quite sure about that particular train. I know for a fact that recently the E I R have tightened up their organisation and the E I R trains are now running to time as far as possible

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance to this House that amongst the measures taken in order to curtail the lateness of a train speeding up of the engine driver will not be one and that no unnecessary risks will be taken, due to undue speeding in order to make up time?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am prepared to give that assurance. In fact it is one of the most important points which are always kept in view by all Administrations

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member whether in the history of the Grant Trunk Express it ever came in time?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I think my Honourable friend knows that much better than I do

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If the Grant Trunk Express is late by half an hour to begin with, it eventually arrives four hours late, because it is detained on the way to enable goods trains to pass. Will the Honourable Member take steps to see, because this is an Express train, that it gets priority over goods trains and other trains?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The suggestion made by the Honourable Member will be sent to the appropriate authorities and the matter will be looked into

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Grant Trunk Express, even when it starts from the Delhi station, is allowed to start from half an hour to an hour late?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not aware of that fact

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that it has been established that the Grand Trunk Express is neither Grand, nor is it a Trunk nor is it an Express?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that, as was pointed out in relation to the Grand Trunk Express, once a train begins to get late, other trains get preference, with the result that it continues to become more and more late, with the result that it reaches its destination several hours late? Will he therefore consider whether a rule cannot be laid down that at least Mail and Express trains, even if they are late, should be given preference over other goods and other trains all over the system?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid I cannot possibly go into all these administrative details at this stage and these points really do not arise out of this question.

BLACKMARKETTING IN NEW MOTOR CARS SOLD AGAINST CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S PERMITS

125 *Mr. C. P. Lawson: Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state

- (a) how many new motor cars have arrived in Delhi during 1946 for sale against permits issued under the auspices of the Chief Commissioner,
- (b) what steps, if any, are taken to ensure that cars purchased against these priority permits are not immediately resold at blackmarket prices, and
- (c) what authority adjudicates in the matter of priorities?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) 255 new cars were allotted to Delhi Province during the period from January to the end of September, 1946, of which 221 actually arrived in Delhi before the end of September.

(b) During the period of control, permits to purchase cars were issued only to essential users. There was, however, no provision in the Civil Motor Cars Control Order—which expired on the 30th of September—to prohibit a person who had purchased a controlled car against a priority permit from selling it to another person. No case of reselling a car at a higher price was reported to the authorities in Delhi.

(c) The Provincial Motor Transport Controller adjudicated in the matter subject to the approval of the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: May I ask the Honourable Member whether in his alternate capacity as member in charge of Railways he has noticed whether any of these cars have been shipped away from Delhi immediately after purchase?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: No such case has been brought to our notice so far but if the Honourable Member will give me definite information, I shall have the whole question examined.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: It is very difficult to buy a new car in Delhi today particularly because dealers expect Rs 3 to 4 thousand extra beyond the control price. May I inquire from the Honourable Member whether Government will take steps to stop this blackmarketing on the part of the dealers?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We have absolutely no control over cars now. As you know, the ordinance expired on the 30th September and dealers can do exactly as they like.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I take it that it is the policy to encourage blackmarketing on the part of the dealers?

Mr. President: That does not arise.

STEAM VESSELS FLYING IN INLAND WATERS

126. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to refer to starred question No 129 of the 8th February, 1946, on the subject of future Government policy regarding ownership and management of steam vessels plying in inland waters, and state what progress has been made in the consideration of the question?

(b) Will the Honourable Member particularly indicate the purport of the opinions expressed by the Provincial Governments concerned, and whether the matter has been considered by the Policy Committee on Transport?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) As stated in the reply to question No. 129, answered on the 8th of February 1946, a memorandum setting out the major issues was sent to the Provincial Governments of Bengal, Bihar and Assam. The Section 93 Governments in Bengal and Bihar expressed tentative views on the question but rightly pointed out that this was a matter on which the views of a responsible Ministry should be asked for. A reply has been received from the Provincial Ministry Government of Assam. They are provisionally inclined to favour the idea of nationalising the river services. No reply has been received from the Ministry Governments of Bengal and Bihar and they have been asked to expedite consideration of the case. The matter was not placed before the Policy Committee on Transport because replies had not been received from the Ministry Governments of Bengal and Bihar and it is not now considered appropriate to place the case before the Policy Committee on Transport as previously constituted. A brief memorandum on the subject will be placed in the very near future before the Advisory Planning Board which has recently been set up and the Standing Committee of the legislature will also be consulted when replies have been received from the two Provinces mentioned. At a later date it may be necessary to convene a joint conference to consider the matter on which the Provincial Governments concerned, the railway and river transport interests would probably be represented.

PROPOSAL BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA FOR A CANAL FROM KIDDERPORE TO DIAMOND HARBOUR

127 *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposal of the Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta for excavating a ship canal from Kidderpore to Diamond Harbour, as an alternative navigation canal for ships regarding which a notification under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* on the 28th March, 1946;

(b) the necessity for such a scheme;

(c) (i) at whose instance such a scheme has been formulated and (ii) the authority which can give final approval to the scheme;

(d) the area involved in the scheme and the project and the extent of crop growing lands (nature of the crops to be indicated) in the said area;

(e) whether Government are aware of the protests made against the scheme and the project by the Corporation of Calcutta by other public bodies, by the public at meetings, by members of the Legislatures, and by the Newspapers pointing out the threatened enormous loss to several thousands of agriculturists families and to agriculture in respect of several hundred thousands of bighas of lands and liquidation of a large number of villages, and

(f) whether Government have examined the implications of the whole matter and the policy?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes

(b) The port of Calcutta is one of very difficult approach even to small ships and the ship canal scheme has been put forward to short-circuit the 42 miles of dangerous and difficult river navigation between Diamond Harbour and Calcutta and to provide sheltered deep water approach to the Port Commissioners' dock system

(c) (i) The scheme which is entirely in an exploratory stage has been formulated by the Calcutta Port Commissioners

(ii) The Central Government

(d) It is not possible to give any definite information on this point as the scheme has not yet been worked out in detail. According to the notification published under the Land Acquisition Act, pieces of land altogether measuring about 18,210 acres are likely to be required in the district of 24 Parganas

(e) Yes

(f) Not yet As already stated, the whole scheme is still in an exploratory stage. The possibility of achieving the same object by river works in the Hooghly will soon be under expert investigation. The views of the Bengal Government and the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta on recommendation (4) of the Ports (Technical) Committee regarding the ship canal and river training works are awaited.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the Government will be prepared to ask for the opinion of the other local self-governing institutions, namely the district boards and municipalities concerned, before they come to a final decision in this matter?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is quite obvious that the whole scheme is in an embryonic stage. Let the Government come to some conclusion first, before they can consult anybody else. The question really does not arise at this stage.

Mr. President: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

COMPARATIVE PRICES OF LAC, WHEAT AND RICE IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

128. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Department of Food be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Teora (lac) is selling at a higher price in the Central Provinces than wheat and rice, and that the price of Teora (lac) is not controlled by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of wheat and rice are low due to the sole reason that these have been so fixed by Government;

(c) whether Government are aware that at the respective prices of Teora (lac) and wheat it is unprofitable for the cultivators to grow wheat, with the result that the acreage under Teora is steadily increasing at the cost of wheat; and

(d) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to either raise the controlled price of wheat and rice or control the price of Teora (lac) also?

Mr. B. B. Sen: An enquiry has been made from the Government of the C P and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

REFORM OF THE LAND REVENUE SYSTEM AND THE REMOVAL OF ZAMINDARS

129. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that most of the Provincial Governments have expressed the desire to reform their land revenue systems by removing intermediaries between the cultivator and the State;

(b) whether payment of compensation to these intermediaries is necessary under Section 199 of the Government of India Act, 1935, if their rights are taken away; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose to move the British Parliament to so amend the Act that it becomes possible to acquire the rights without payment of any compensation?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) So far as I am aware the Governments of five of the eleven Governors' Provinces have expressed a relevant intention.

(b) The question whether a particular law attracts sub-section (2) of Section 299 is a question for the Courts, but *prima facie* the answer appears to be in the affirmative.

(c) No, Sir.

FINANCING OF PROVINCES BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR COMPENSATING
ZAMINDARS

130 *Seth Govind Das : Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state whether the Government of India propose to ask Provincial Governments to adopt a co-ordinated plan and accept a uniform policy for the purpose of reforming land revenue systems in Provinces by removing intermediaries between the cultivator and the State ?

(b) Do the Government of India propose to undertake to finance Provinces for compensating intermediaries whose rights are to be acquired ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : (a) The systems of land tenures vary considerably from province to province and sometimes even in different parts of a province. It is not considered practicable to have a co-ordinated plan or a uniform policy for all provinces. The Government of India do not therefore propose to address the provinces to adopt the same. Several provinces are looking into the whole question themselves, land revenue being a provincial subject.

(b) If such proposals are included in the post-war development plans of a province they will be examined on their merits for deciding whether to approve them for inclusion in the schemes for which grants or loans are admissible from the Centre.

NATIONALIZATION OF AIR TRANSPORT IN INDIA

131 *Seth Govind Das : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there has been and continues to be a rapid growth of air transport in India and that transport services are in private hands ?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to nationalise the air transport and so plan it that the facility of carriage of passengers and posts by air comes within the reach of towns with a population of two lakhs and above ?

Sir Harold Shobert : (a) Yes.

(b) The policy decided by the previous Government was in favour of regulated controlled private enterprise. The present Government has had no time to review the policy, but intends to do so soon. I may, however add that the House will have an opportunity to discuss this subject on Sardar Mangal Singh's resolution to be debated on 8th November. Probably by that time I may be in a position to indicate the Government policy.

SHORTAGE OF BOOKINGS OF TIMBER ON THE SATPURA DIVISION OF B. N. RAILWAY

132 *Seth Govind Das : Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the narrow gauge Satpura Division of the Bengal Nagpur Railway is the worst sufferer under the 'Regional Railway Priority Controls' as bookings are available to them only on a very limited scale and for a very short while ;

(b) whether Government are aware that allotment of wagons for transport of timber is made on the recommendations of the Timber Transport Advisory Committee, Central Provinces and Berar ;

(c) whether Government propose to abolish the medium of the Timber Transport Advisory Committee and constitute a committee of its own for the purpose, and

(d) whether Government propose to place on the table of the House information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of unstarred question No. 137 of the 14th March, 1946 ?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali : (a) The "Satpura Division", or more properly, the Nainpur District of the B. N. Railway, is a narrow gauge district

with very limited rolling stock. The best possible use is made of such stock as is available. In June, 1946, it was necessary to concentrate on the transport of foodgrains and fire-wood to Nagpur and Jabulpore at the earnest request of the Provincial Government in order to build up stocks against the possibility of a general railway strike. All other traffic suffered during this period. Except for this time of emergency, an equitable distribution of transport is the general practice, but it may be noted that the railway is particularly short of trucks suitable for the loading of long timber. Only some 15 trucks a day of such traffic can be cleared.

(b) Timber Transport Advisory Committees have operated in all timber despatching areas for some years. It is the practice for Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities to meet these committees monthly and allocate wagon quotas for timber in consultation with them. Thereafter the Forest Department takes steps to allocate trucks and to make arrangements for the transport of timber. These arrangements have worked with great success and Government are not aware of any public discontent in connection with the working of the Central Provinces and Berar Committee.

(c) Government see no valid reason for ordering the abolition of Timber Transport Advisory Committees.

(d) The information was placed on the table of the House in April 1946 and is printed at page 4266 of the Legislative Assembly Debates April 18th 1946, Vol VI—No 3.

POLICY OF GOVERNMENT INCREASE IN YIELD OF FOOD CROPS

133 *Mr. Madandhar Singh: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state the future policy of Government in regard to increasing the yield of food crop and for making agriculture a paying business?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The policy of Government is stated in the Statement of Agriculture and Food Policy in India copies of which are available in the Library.

APPOINTMENT OF MR P M GLOVER AS ENTOMOLOGIST IN INDIAN LAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

134 *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that at the time when Mr (now Major) P M Glover was being appointed Entomologist in the Indian Lac Research Institute the post was advertised in England only notwithstanding the specific direction of the Committee of the Indian Lac Association to advertise it both in India and in England,

(b) whether the Chairman of the Committee was responsible for the action taken in contravention of this direction and for thus depriving Indians in this country of the opportunity of applying for the post,

(c) whether the Chairman in question was an Englishman and

(d) if it is a fact that Mr Glover had no previous knowledge of lac when he was appointed?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) to (d) Mr Glover was appointed in 1929 i.e., 17 years ago. Information as regards the circumstances of the recruitment is not available and is being collected.

PAYMENTS TO MR GLOVER BY INDIAN LAC CESS COMMITTEE WITHOUT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S SANCTION

135 *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that during the currency of his last contract, Mr P M Glover was called up for military service in connection with the recent war under the National Service Act,

(b) whether in disregard of section 6 of the Indian Lac Cess Act enjoining that the proceeds of the Lac Cess should be devoted only to promoting research on and sale of lac, the Indian Lac Cess Committee decided to pay Mr Glover the

difference between his pay in the Indian Lac Research Institute and his pay in the Army ;

(c) whether the Committee asked for the sanction of the Central Government to the proposal ;

(d) whether subsequently the Committee authorised the payment to him of the difference between his Civil and Army pay in anticipation of Government sanction, and

(e) whether any audit objection was raised against these payments ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes

(b) The Committee did decide to pay Mr Glover the difference between his pay under the Committee and his pay in the Army. Such payment was in accordance with the general practice adopted by Government and by private firms and is not in contravention of Section 6 of the Act.

(c) Yes

(d) The sanction was applied for in September 1940 and reminders sent in October and December 1940 and in January 1941. No reply having been received, the Committee decided in February 1941 to authorise the payment in anticipation of Government sanction and informed Government of this decision. The orders of Government were not received till July 1942.

(e) No

RECOVERY OF OVER-PAYMENTS MADE TO MR GLOVER

136 *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary for Agriculture Department be pleased state

(a) if it is a fact that payments of difference between the Civil and Army pay of Mr Glover continued to be made by the Indian Lac Cess Committee to Mr Glover until the Central Government's reply rejecting the proposal of the Committee was actually received by the Committee that the total amount thus paid to Mr. Glover was nearly Rs 10,000 ;

(b) if it is a fact that before the first payment was made to Mr Glover he was informed that he would have to refund the amounts drawn by him in anticipation of Government sanction, if this sanction was eventually refused ;

(c) whether the recovery was waived by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Committee even without an application from Mr Glover ;

(d) whether Government will be pleased to consider the question of recovering the sums irregularly paid to Mr Glover from him or from the President and members of the Committee and those officers of the Central Government responsible for allowing the payments to be made in anticipation of Government sanction and for waiving recovery even without an application from Mr Glover, and

(e) whether Government will also be pleased to consider the desirability of terminating the arrangement with the Auditors for their failure to raise any objections in audit ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) The Committee recommended that the recovery might be waived or the amount of leave due might be reduced by nine months so that leave salary might not have to be paid for this period. The Government decided to waive recovery. It is not known if any formal request was made by Mr Glover, but requests were made by him both orally and in Demi-official correspondence.

(d) and (e) Do not arise

REPAYMENT OF LOAN TAKEN BY MR GLOVER

137. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state if it is a fact—

(i) that Mr Glover who is still in the Army holds a lien on his appointment in the Indian Lac Research Institute, and that it is proposed to allow him to return and serve the Committee for the remaining period of his contract,

(ii) that sometime in 1942 he applied to the Committee for a loan of more than Rs 2,000 on the plea that it was required to enable him to meet his various liabilities, and that he undertook in accordance with the Provident Fund Rules to repay the loan in regular monthly instalments,

(iii) that he has in the course of four years or more made only two or three payments of Rs 100 each,

(iv) that he has paid little or no heed to the several reminders sent to him; and

(v) that it now transpires that he took the loan not to meet any liabilities, but to invest the amount in war bonds?

(b) Whether Government will be pleased to state the action if any taken against Mr Glover?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) and (b) An enquiry has been made from the Committee whose reply has not yet been received. A reply will be given at a later date.

ENLARGEMENT OF POWERS AND JURISDICTION OF FEDERAL COURT

138 *Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state

(a) what steps are being taken for the immediate enlargement of the powers and jurisdiction of the Federal Court so as to vest the same with full and final authority of the Supreme Judiciary in the country, and

(b) whether it is proposed to have a discussion of the matter in the House in the course of the present session?

Sir George Spence: (a) and (b) No immediate action in this direction is contemplated. In view of the fact that the Constituent Assembly will be meeting soon to draft a constitution for India and must consider the question of a Supreme Court for India, it is not considered necessary to promote a discussion of this subject in the current Session.

ERASING OF NAMES OF RAILWAY STATIONS WRITTEN IN URDU SCRIPT IN THE PURNEA DISTRICT ON B A RAILWAY

139 *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussam (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the names of Railway Stations written in Urdu script on all the Station of the Bengal Assam Railway in the District of Purnea (Bihar Province) have been recently erased to the great inconvenience of the Muslim passengers?

(b) Have the local authorities been instructed by the Central Government to do so?

(c) If not, why and with what motive are the local authorities putting the Muslim passengers in difficulty by erasing the name in the Urdu script?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the local authorities to re-write the names of the stations in the Urdu script also?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a), (b) and (c) As a security measure, during the war, the names of Railway Stations had been obliterated from Station buildings and name boards removed from station premises. Recently, while replacing the name boards at Stations in the Railway District of Katihar (Purnea District) the Urdu Script was used by mistake in addition to English and Bengali. This was a departure from the old standard practice and was rectified as soon as detected. It is understood from the *Imperial Gazetteer of India* that the population in the Purnea District is mainly Hindi speaking and to a smaller extent Bengali speaking.

(d) The Government intend to have the position reviewed by the B A Railway administration in consultation with the Provincial Government and the Local Advisory Committees.

UNLAWFUL STOPPING OF RAILWAY TRAINS BY NATIONAL CONGRESS VOLUNTEERS IN BIHAR

140 *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussam : (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if Government are aware that in Bihar both on the East Indian Railway and the Oudh and Tirhut Railway National Congress Volunteers often pull chains and stop trains without any cause, putting *bona fide* travellers to great inconvenience?

(b) Is it a fact that those volunteers travel without purchasing tickets for their train journey and that they break their journey whenever they like by stopping trains?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to check this kind of stopping of trains? If so, what?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Government are aware that in Bihar, both on the East Indian and Oudh Tirhut Railways, alarm chains are often needlessly pulled which result in inconvenience to bona fide passengers and railway working generally. Government have been advised that the main offenders are batches of young students.

(b) It is a fact that these offenders often travel without purchasing tickets and break journeys where they like by pulling alarm chains.

(c) Yes. Intensive checks are being carried out by squads of Travelling Ticket Examiners in collaboration with Government Railway Police. In some cases these squads are accompanied by Travelling Magistrates and prison vans. On the East Indian Railway a drive has also been made by Travelling Ticket Examiners in plain clothes with the object of detecting offenders.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

APPOINTMENT OF UN-TRAINED PERSONS AS COMMERCIAL AND TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS ON NW RAILWAY

24. Seth Sukhdev : (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state when the posts of Commercial Inspectors were created on the North Western Railway, and whether he will lay a copy of the Organisation Order on the table of the House?

(b) Were the candidates required to go through a training course at the Walton Training School like Transportation Inspectors?

(c) How many Commercial Inspectors who failed to pass the Walton Training School Course are still employed as Commercial Inspectors?

(d) How many Transportation Inspectors, who failed to qualify for the training course at the Walton Training School, are employed as Transportation Inspectors?

(e) If the reply to part (d) above be that no such unqualified or failed person is employed as a Transportation Inspector, why is different treatment given to Commercial Inspectors?

(f) What steps do Government propose to take to remove the anomaly?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The posts of Commercial Inspectors were created on the North Western Railway with effect from 2nd January, 1945. I lay on the table of the House a copy of the Organisation Order issued by the North Western Railway Administration in connection with the creation of these posts.

(b) Yes, but subsequent to their selection as Commercial Inspectors.

(c) Four.

(d) There are no such Transportation Inspectors

(e) In view of the urgent necessity for the creation of a separate cadre of Commercial Inspectors, it was not possible to send the individuals who were selected as being fit to work as Commercial Inspectors by a Selection Board for a training course at the Walton Training School before their appointment as such. It will, however, be observed from para 4 of the Organization Order mentioned in the reply to part (a) of this question that their confirmation will depend on their qualifying in the course.

(f) Government understand that for the future it has been prescribed that only those who have qualified in the Commercial Course at the Walton Training School and have been selected by a properly constituted Selection Board will be appointed as Commercial Inspectors.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(ORGANIZATION ORDER No 169, DATED 19TH DECEMBER, 1944)

(Case No 757 E/328)

Commercial Inspectors

It has been decided to separate the cadre of the Transportation Inspectors and Commercial Inspectors with effect from 2nd January, 1945.

2 The duty list of Commercial Inspectors is attached as Appendix 'A'. In order to avoid unnecessary overlapping the Commercial Inspectors will concentrate on the supervision of the Commercial work at large Commercial stations while Traffic Inspectors will continue to supervise and inspect Commercial work at small stations. A list of important Commercial Stations to be supervised and inspected by Commercial Inspectors is attached as Appendix 'B', but it is left to the discretion of the Divisional Superintendents to include any other stations if considered really necessary. The number of stations under each Commercial Inspector should, not, however, ordinarily exceed 12.

3 Recruitment.—The posts of Commercial Inspectors will be filled by Selection from amongst the following categories of staff—

	Rs
(i) Chief Booking Clerks, Chief Parcel Clerks and Chief Goods Clerks, Grade V	240—10—250
(ii) Goods Supervisors	250—10—300
(iii) Senior Claims Inspectors	200—10—270
(iv) Rates Inspector	200—10—270
(v) Platform and Luggage Inspectors	240—10—270
(vi) Publicity Inspectors	215—15—275
(vii) Head Clerks Commercial Branches Grade V and above	215—15—275
(viii) Traffic Inspectors who have had extensive and continuous Commercial experience and training	and above
(ix) Road Inspectors	240—10—270 200
(x) Reservation Supervisor grade	200—10—270 200

Provided they are properly qualified in Commercial duties

4 Training.—Those selected as Commercial Inspectors will be required to undergo a course of training (P 15) in the Walton Training School where three courses will be held in 1945 commencing on 2nd January, 19th February and 9th April, 1945. Their confirmation will depend on their qualifying in this course and on the recommendation of the Divisional Superintendent concerned.

(Sd)

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE,
Dated 19th December, 1944

for General Manager

APPENDIX 'A'

Duty List of Commercial Inspectors

1 To be responsible for Commercial working of the stations on his section, with particular reference to —

(a) the correct preparation and despatch of returns and to see that correspondence is up-to-date and the M G Rs are prepared as required,

(b) the correct upkeep of all Commercial books of references,

(c) the check on wagon loads to verify that good loads are obtained and report on the movement of non essential and unnecessary long haul traffic,

(d) the scrutiny of priority registers and check of priority certificates, priority orders and class and group loading schemes,

(e) the check on marking labelling, rivetting and sealing of wagons and proper labelling and marking of parcels, luggage and goods. Education of the public in the labelling and marking of their own consignments with private marks, see that para 490 and 494 of Commercial Manual are acted upto,

(f) the check on notices as to the time of opening of goods and parcel offices, also to see to the proper exhibition of time tables, fare lists, etc.,

(g) check up on the packing of consignments with the public and to bring to notice any cases of habitual bad packing of specific commodities by consignors,

(h) the correct declaration, weighing, and routing of consignments and correct loading of vans at transhipment sheds, and

(i) the correct execution of the forwarding and risk notes and see that no consignment is accepted for booking at railway risk unless it is properly and securely packed. In all these cases where specific packing condition, are attached consignments are not accepted for carriage by rail at railway risk unless these conditions are complied with.

2 To carry out the yearly Commercial inspections of his section at stations nominated

3 To personally supervise Commercial work at stations nominated. To see that the Commercial staff employed on stations are fully conversant with all the rules and regulations and other local orders issued from time to time

4 To conduct enquiries into complaints, irregularities and other matters referred to him by the Divisional Office

5 To inspect Refreshment Rooms, Waiting Rooms, and vending and ice and aerated water arrangements at stations and in trains and report on any irregularities. Also to see to the cleanliness of these Rooms, stations platforms and surroundings

6 To carry out frequent inspections and tests of weighing machines and fire appliances at stations on his section

7 To supervise the arrangements for the supply of drinking water to passengers

8 To scrutinise the register of restrictions and check up as to whether the restrictions notified are being properly observed. To see that all restrictions are properly entered on the notice board provided for this purpose and up to date list of commodities not accepted for booking as parcels is hung up at a conspicuous place, outside Parcel Offices

9 To supervise Commercial arrangements at large fairs and melas

10 To check up the preparation of duty lists of inferior Commercial staff and to deal with correspondence in connection with their transfer

11 To take prompt action with regard to accidents requiring his presence and to see that action is taken vide rule SR 164/49 and 51 of the General and Subsidiary Rules

12 To examine all stations records in connection with demand and supply of stock as well as to check up on the quick release of loaded inward wagons. Check cabinets were kept

13 To deal with cases of excessive delays to stock, short supply of stock entailing heavy delays to consignments in booking, also any congestion due to delays in unloading wagons or from any other cause, and to take immediate action and put matters right

14 To check up the booking and movement of "smalls"

To reduce the running of C R and T R vans to a minimum and to see that vans are given the fullest loads possible and that no light running takes place

15 To arrange intensive checks on ticketless travel and to see that break of journey tickets are properly endorsed and that ordinary tickets are properly date-stamped and nipped both at the starting and destination stations

16 To deal with important claims cases and to effect open deliveries as ordered by the Divisional Office

17 To keep a check on 'B' class outstandings at stations and to take steps to clear them as expeditiously as possible bringing to notice any serious delays in their clearance.

18 To check on packages lying undelivered both in parcel and goods godowns and attempt to connect up those found in excess with stations requiring such packages To see that orders regarding despatch to Lost Property Office of excess consignments whether booked or unbooked are carried out To see that stations regularly report to Headquarters Office all cases of excess packages lying unconnected

19 To check up the sufficiency of labour and to see that loading and transhipment of goods parcels and luggage is done properly to prevent damage to consignments *en-route* and that luggage and Cinema films parcels are always despatched in brake vans on trains without any delay whatsoever To see that the D D Advice Register is properly maintained and intimation regarding loss damage or deficiency of package or consignment and consignments and packages received in excess is duly given to the stations concerned

20 To suggest ways and means to prevent claims occurring

21 To inspect Out Agencies and City Booking Agencies and report any irregular booking

22 To check leases of plots of railway land demised to outsiders and see that all terms and conditions are duly fulfilled by the Lessees

APPENDIX "B"

List of important Commercial stations to be supervised and inspected by Commercial Inspectors

Rawalpindi (one C M I)	Lala Musa Sargodha Malakwal	Jhelum Rawalpindi Mari Indus	Kohat Cant Peshawar Cant Peshawar City	Haranpur Mily id ng Hatedpur Mily id ng Khewra
Lahore (Two C M Is)	Lahore Lahore Cant Moghalpura Harbanspura Gujranwala	Amritsar Sialkot Okara	Jullundur City Jullundur Cant Ludhiana	Warrabad Jammu (Tawi) Gujrat Patkoti
Delhi (Two C M Is)	Delhi New Delhi Saharanpur	Khanalampura Ambala Cant Kaika	Smla Bhatinda Meerut City	Gharabad Ambala City Muzaffarnagar Meerut Cant
Ferozepore (One C M I)	Ferozepore Cant Ferozepore City Moga Tahsil	Kot Kapura Abohar Kasur	Bhagatwala Mandi Burewala	Kasu Begu Arifwala Vihari
Multan (One C M I)	Multan City Multan Cant Samasata	Khanowal Mian Channun Lyallpur	Gujra Toba Tek Singh Muzaffargarh	Jaranwala Sangla Hill Tandianwala
Karachi (Two C M Is)	Port Area Kotri Hyderabad (Sind)	Tando Adam Nawabshah	Sukkur Sukkur Bunder Sadikabad Drigh Road Malir Cant	Larkana Jacobabad Shikarpur
Quetta (One C M I)	Quetta Bostan Sibi	Chaman Dalbandin Nok Kundi	Zahidan	

Note—Other important Commercial stations may, at the discretion of Divisional Superintendents, be added to this list provided each Inspector has not ordinarily more than 12 stations under his control

LIGHTING ARRANGEMENT ON PASSENGER COACHES ON B. A. RAILWAY, METER GAUGE SECTION.

25. Mr. K. C. Neogy : (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to refer to unstarred question No. 28 of the 8th February, 1946, on the subject of night passenger coaches on the Bengal Assam Railway, Meter Gauge Section, and

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

lay on the table of the House a statement showing the total number of passenger train services, excluding day trains, that were run month by month, since 1945, in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh and which were not equipped with lighting arrangements in passenger coaches, and indicate the progress that has been made in the provision of lighting arrangements?

(b) Are Government aware that due to the running of passenger trains at night without lighting arrangements in the coaches, thefts, looting, assaults on passenger and even abduction of women from trains were facilitated in certain parts of the above section of the Railway?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) I regret that it will not be possible to compile the statement asked for by the Honourable Member, since the necessary information regarding deficiencies in lighting arrangements in individual coaches from October, 1945, on the section of the Bengal Assam Railway referred to, is not available.

As regards the progress that has been made in the provision of lighting arrangements, the Bengal Assam Railway Administration are receiving supplies of electric bulbs to the extent of 2,000 per month. During 1945, they arranged for at least one bulb to be fitted in each compartment on the Dacca-Chittagong Division. Unfortunately, however, thefts of electric bulbs and fittings increased to such an extent that at present only 50 per cent of the carriages are provided with lights. The administration expect, however, that provided the rate of theft does not increase, they will be in a position again to provide at least one bulb in each compartment within the next two or three months.

During the period from January, 1945, to December, 1945, 30,000 electric bulbs were stolen on the B A Railway and heavy thefts and damage to electric fittings still continue. In an effort to stop thefts, the railway administration have for some time been fitting strong wire cages around the electric bulbs in carriages, but it will necessarily take some time for this work to be completed.

(b) Government are of course aware that inadequate lighting in trains is a factor which facilitates crime at night, but the Honourable Member will, I think, concede that it is by no means the only factor which has facilitated the commission of the outrages which have unfortunately been perpetrated in certain parts of the section of the B A Railway referred to.

LICENCES AND FACILITIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COTTON MILLS IN INDIA

26. Mr K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of licences for the establishment of new cotton mills, or addition to the production capacity of the existing mills that have been granted in different provinces, and Indian States, respectively?

(b) What are the prospects of necessary machinery and other equipment being available in the near future in connection with the above projects, and what facilities are Government providing for expediting the fruition of the above schemes?

(c) What is the number of applications for licence for the establishment of new cotton textile mills that are now pending consideration in respect of each province and what is the number of looms and spindles, respectively, that are involved in such applications?

(d) When is Government decision expected to be taken on these applications for licence in each province and Indian State?

(e) What facilities exist at present in India for the manufacture of cotton textile machinery, and what is the maximum capacity of the existing manufacturing concerns in this matter? Is there any proposal for further expanding the capacity for the manufacture of cotton textile machinery in the country; and what assistance, if any, are Government prepared to render in that behalf?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The information desired by the Honourable Member is as follows

Province or State	New Mills		Expansion of existing mills	
	Number of licences	Number of spindles	Number of licences	Number of spindles
Sind	3	75,000	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Assam	2	1,00,000	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Orissa	4	1,10,000	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Bengal	15	2,10,372	17	1,14,628
Punjab	11	2,29,600	5	35,492
United Provinces	3	75,000	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Bihar	7	1,75,000	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Central Provinces	6	1,26,100	3	20,760
Madras	23	2,67,200	9	67,300
Bombay	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	35	1,93,296
Delhi	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	1	12,000
Indian States	30	4,59,100	12	91,512

(b) I have nothing to add to the reply given by my predecessor to parts (b) and (c) of Question No 677, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh on the 5th March 1946

(c) The information is as follows

Province or State	Number of applications pending	Number of spindles	Number of looms
Punjab	58	15,29,800	34,000
United Provinces	35	7,11,500	13,000
Bihar	12	3,00,000	7,000

(d) On receipt of Provincial Governments' recommendations

(e) Only powerlooms and spare parts of spinning and weaving machines are being manufactured by some firms in India. No reliable information is available regarding their capacity. Two firms have produced Ring frames on a small scale, but quality and performance are not known. To investigate the possibilities of setting up manufacture of textile machinery in India a Mission consisting of Mr Krishnarat, M D Thackersey, Mr D M Khatau, Sir Frederick Stones and Mr T P. Barat and sponsored by Government has left for U. K., U. S. A. and Switzerland.

PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF COTTON TEXTILES AND COTTON YARN IN INDIA.

27. Mr K. C. Neogy : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the present position of the production and supply of cotton textiles and cotton yarn in the country, indicating in respect of the previous year, as also the current year, —

(i) the total estimated supply and its distribution by Provinces,

(ii) the quantities of authorised export from India to different countries, respectively,

(iii) the levels of controlled prices, and

(iv) the prevalence of blackmarket practices if any province or province?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please state how the production programme of the cotton textile industry in each province suffered during the previous year, as well as the current year, respectively on a count of (i) strikes, (ii) port supplies of coal or other fuel, and (iii) any other cause?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai : (a) (i) and (ii) — The information desired is contained in the following statements.

SUPPLEMENT I

Production and distribution of cloth during 1945

Zone	Percentage allowance in 1945	Total requirements of zone based on per capita allowance and population in 1945	Total production of mill made and handloom cloth in the zone in 1945	Excess supply made during 1945
1	2	3	4	5
Bombay surplus	15	159,416	1,078,947	134,883
Western India States surplus	12	30,876	50,743	1,282
Central India surplus	12	181,164	1,02,092	80,023
Rajputana deficit	12	43,766	3,094	37,445
Sind	24	13,728		13,686
Punjab	18	507,057	146,978	356,265
N W F P	18	32,496	1,200	39,208
United Provinces	10	406,527	210,467	198,084
Bihar	10	254,382	28,248	227,849
Bengal	10	430,830	225,425	206,091
Assam	10	74,697	17,530	57,501
Orissa	10	111,420	31,878	78,608
Central Provinces	12	163,404	108,599	57,091
South	10	508,278	393,396	121,156
Hyderabad	10	59,907	35,144	21,137

STATEMENT II

Production and distribution of cloth during 1946

Zone	Per capita allowance in 1946	Total requirements of zone based on per capita allowance and population in 1946 for 11 months ending November 1946	Total product of mill made and handloom cloth in the zone in 1946	Actual supplies made during 1946
1	2	3	4	5
Bombay surplus	18	125,461	1,640,184	205,086
Western India States surplus	12	28,830	48,878	27,203
Central India surplus	12	77,798	133,457	71,810
Rajputana deficit	12	112,559	61,319	65,605
Sind	18	54,372	3,028	50,350
Baluchistan	24	12,925	82	12,843
Panjab	18	440,005	165,236	305,130
N. W. F. P.	18	60,720	2,408	57,910
United Provinces	13½	173,742	281,117	217,167
Bihar	12	271,599	41,399	212,820
Bengal	12	479,311	217,159	213,648
Assam	11	74,880	16,179	58,701
Orissa	11	111,718	39,516	64,011
Central Provinces	12	138,998	112,171	26,827
South	12	484,531	399,499	134,554
Hyderabad	12	122,096	76,601	45,495

NOTE I.—The Bombay, Western India States and Central India States zones are surplus zones. Production in these zones which is in excess of consumption allotments is distributed to deficit zones. The quantities so distributed from surplus zones to deficit zones are shown in column 5 of the above two statements.

NOTE II.—The figure entered in column 3 against the Bombay surplus zone shows the requirements of that zone for the 7 months, June–December 1945.

NOTE III.—The *per capita* quotas were revised in October, 1945. The figures in column 3 of the above statement I take into account the revised *per capita* quotas.

NOTE IV.—The Central India surplus zone was formed in February 1946, previously it had been part of the Rajputana and Central Provinces deficit zones. Hence the *nil* figure in statement I above.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STATEMENT III

Production and distribution of yarn during 1945 and 1946

(Figures in bales of 400 lbs)

Region (1)	Yarn deliveries during year September 1944 August 1945 (bales) (2)	Yarn deliveries during year September 1945— August 1946 (bales) (3)
Assam	6,011	15,252
Bihar	11,850	10,178
Bengal	92,665	105,512
Bihar	24,511	57,705
Bombay	170,931	136,361
Cambay	290	
Ajmer, Rajputana & Central India	21,181	21,246
C. P. & Berar	55,769	58,151
Cochin	1,631	991
Delhi	10,000	3,120
Gwalior	10,721	7,531
Hyderabad	28,072	17,172
Kolhapur and Deccan States	1,996	7,101
Madras	296,210	241,617
Myson	22,986	27,167
Punjab	28,266	52,127
Sind	3,326	1,728
Travancore	8,881	16,116
United Provinces	119,150	136,958
Jammu and Kashmir	1,594	1,718
Orissa	15,534	46,664
N. W. F. P.	1,350	1,968
Baluchistan	53	111
Kashmir	not collected	3,081
Pondicherry	not collected	1,171
Total	929,015	1,026,164

STATEMENT IV

Exports in 1945

(Figures in ton)

Countries	Cloth	Yarn
A Aden, including Yemen, Hadramaut	2,512	135.6
N. Somalia	142	.
AA South Arabia	1,159	..
AB Ethiopia	1,615	1620
AC Eritrea	396	150
AD French Somaliland	36	..
B Afghanistan	3,200	160
C Arab States in the Persian Gulf	1,200	18
D Australia	3,600	705
E Belgium Congo	200	..
F British East Africa (excluding India and Somaliland)	7,000	.
G British West Africa including Sierra Leone	3,600	120
HA China	200	.
T Ceylon	3,900	224.6
Maldives Island	50	2.5
T Cyprus	64	129
T Egypt	291	.
N. D. Indies	18	.
M French Equatorial Africa including Chad, Congo and Gabon	160	.
F West and North Africa	600	.
N Iraq	3,196	421
O Mauritius	800	.
P New Zealand	520	.
Q N & S Rhodesia	480	.
R Palestine	135	535.7
RA Transjordan	203	9
S Persia	2,809	.
T Portuguese East Africa	80	.
U Seychelles	60	.
Carried over		

Countries	Cloth	Yards
Brought forward		
V Sudan	6,467	186 6
W Syria and Lebanon	482	214
X Turkey	550	650
Y Union of South Africa	1,580	
Z Nepal	2,320	
Tibet	600	
ZA British Pacific Islands	160	
ZB French Pacific Islands	88	
ZC Madagascar	1 200	
ZD Réunion		
For Eastern countries (Stock pile)	3,544	
	54,720	7 250 0

(1 Ton=10,000 yards)

Exports in 1946

(1 Ton=10,000 yards)

Countries	Cloth	Yards
A Aden, including Yemen, Hadramaut	1,336	
N Somalia	67	
AA Saudi Arabia	583	
AB Ethiopia	1,328	
AC Eritrea	215	
AD French Somaliland	12	
B Afghanistan	3,620	130
C Arab States in the Persian Gulf	975	28
D Australia	3,000	
E Belgian Congo	75	
F British East Africa Nyasaland and Italian Somaliland.	4,970	
Carried over		

Countries	Cloth	Yarn
Brought forward		
G British West Africa including Nigeria	1,960	
HA China	80	
I Ceylon	2,765	
J Cyprus	105	
L Egypt		
N E Indies	165	
M French Equatorial Africa including Cameroons and Gabon		
N Iraq	1,830	
O Mauritius	935	
P New Zealand	290	
Q N & S Rhodesia	290	
R Palestine	220	
RA Transjordan	69	
S Persia	1,107	
T Portuguese East Africa	45	
U Seychelles	85	
V Sudan	2,824	
W Syria and Lebanon	224	
X Turkey	115	
Y Union of South Africa	650	
Z Nepal	2,150	320
Tibet	770	
ZA British Pacific Islands	95	
ZB French Pacific Islands		
ZC Madagascar		
ZD Reunion		
Burma	4,700	
Other liberated territories in Far East	}	
(Mal St Settlement, Br Borneo, Hongkong.)		1,570
All Far Colonies		1,500
Total	40,385	478

(1 ton=10,000 yards.)

STATEMENT V

(Showing representative range of controlled prices for cloth as fixed in 1945)

Cloth	Width	Length	Warp	Weft	Reed	Pick	December 1945 Ex mill
	Inch	Yds					Rs a p
1 Bleached Mulmul	43	20	40s	50s	52	44	17 4 0
2 Grey Longcloth	43	33	30s	40s	64	64	22 11 0
3 Grey Leopard Cloth	43	33	20s	22s	48	48	16 5 0
4 Grey Dirty	44	10	70s	90s	64	56	5 8 6
5 Bleached Longcloth	33	40	20s	30s	56	48	16 11 0
6 Coloured Poplin	29	20	10s	10s	80	48	8 6 0
7 Bleached Nakshi Cloth	16	8	70s	90s	64	52	4 11 9
8 Coloured Sarco	42	7	20s	30s	40	32	2 1 6
9 Bleached Mulmul	48	20	32s	40s	64	44	9 12 0
10 Grey Drill	27	10	12s	10s	75	42	21 11 0
11 Grey Longcloth Markin	43	33	22s	22s	48	44	16 7 0
12 Satton	44/45	22½	14s	14s	10	36	8 13 0

Note —The above prices have remained unchanged during 1946

STATEMENT VI

(Showing year price levels from February 1945 upto date)

(Per bundle of 10 lbs)

Counts	Cotton	From 1/2/45 to 31/7/45 Schedule 'T'	From 1/8/45 to 30/10/45 Schedule 'M'	From 1/11/45 to 4/4/46 Schedule 'O'	From 5/4/46 Schedule 'P'
		Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a p.
1½	West	3 7 0	3 7 0	3 7 0	4 8 0
2	Do	3 13 0	3 13 0	3 13 0	4 11 0
1½	Do	3 9 0	3 9 0	3 9 0	4 10 0
4	Colour mixing Indian	6 4 0	6 4 0	5 8 0	6 8 0
6	Do	6 8 0	6 8 0	5 12 0	6 12 0
8	Do	6 12 0	6 12 0	6 0 0	7 0 0
10	Do	8 0 0	8 0 0	7 4 0	8 4 0
12	Do	8 4 0	8 4 0	7 8 0	8 8 0

STATEMENT *AS* AVIATION SHARE OF THE PETROL TAX FUND
ON THE TABLE

Sir Harold Shoobert (Secretary, Communications Department) Sir, I beg to lay on the table a statement showing the objects on which the aviation share of the Petrol Tax Fund was expended during 1945-46

Statement showing the objects on which expenditure was incurred during the year 1945-46 from the Aviation Share of Petrol Tax Fund

Objects	Expenditure Rs
Clubs —	
Grants in aid to Flying Clubs in India	77,250
financial assistance to the Indian Gliding Association	3,000
Training —	
Operations and maintenance of wind Tunnel, etc. at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for carrying out certain tests on aircraft	13,735
Training of Pilots in Transport flying	16,981
Miscellaneous —	
Emergency equipment for removing disabled aircraft of heavy type—carry forward of expenditure from last year	3,910
Total	94,882

NOTIFICATION *AT* AMENDMENTS TO INDIAN AIRCRAFT RULES
LAID ON THE TABLE

Sir Harold Shoobert (Secretary, Communications Department) Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy each of the following Notifications including certain further amendments to the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937 under sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934

- (i) Posts and Air Department Notification No. 10 M(A) 7/16 dated the 16th April 1946
- (ii) Posts and Air Department Notification No. 11 M(A) 1/16 III dated the 17th August 1946
- (iii) Communications Department Notification No. 10 M(A) 26/16 I dated the 18th September 1946
- (iv) Communications Department Notification No. 10 M(A) 26/16 IV dated the 18th September 1946
- (v) Communications Department Notification No. 10 M(A) 27/16 dated the 23rd September 1946
- (vi) Communications Department Notification No. 10-M(A) 17-16 dated the 20th September 1946

MOTOR VEHICLES (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) RULES AND
NOTIFICATION *AT* AMENDMENTS TO COORG MOTOR VEHICLES
RULES 1940—LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport) Sir, I beg to lay on the table under sub-section (3) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939

- (i) a copy of the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) Rules, 1946 published in the War Transport Department Notification No. 37-TP(8)/46, dated the 24th April 1946, and
- (ii) a copy of the Notification by the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, No. 254/R P 95-45, dated the 7th August, 1946 relating to certain amendments of the Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940

*Printed as Appendix I to these Debates
*Printed as Appendix II to these Debates

INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. President: The House will now proceed to consider the legislative business, namely, the motion of the Honourable the Labour Member to refer the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, to the Select Committee as well as the amendment moved to it

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Mulimmiidun Rural)
 Mr. President, when the House rose yesterday, I was referring to the fact that the employers had done nothing in order to encourage sound trade unionism in this country. The argument advanced by them was that it was for labour to build their organisation. It was stated that the employers were always willing to grant recognition and there was no necessity for making provision for the same under the statute of the land. Now, in the course of the last 16 years since the report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India was published, it will be found that no effort worth the name has ever been made by the employers towards the development of sound trade unionism. They are repeating the same plot which they repeated before the Royal Commission on Labour. It was argued by my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths that they always welcomed healthy growth of trade unionism but he declined to define in clear terms what was really healthy trade unionism. We are troubled with the definition of loyalty. Every citizen who salutes the officer and does not question his authority is a loyal citizen. Similarly every worker who accepts whatever the employer offers is a good trade unionist. If he is prepared to accept everything in the spirit of reward and not in his right for due remuneration he is a good trade unionist. But if he tries to measure his dignity with the employer, the answer is that it is not healthy trade unionism. This plot that the employers have always been willing to encourage trade unionism on healthy lines is one which I cannot accept in the face of facts in reference to which I made a statement yesterday. At the same time I agree that recognition should have been the result of good organisation on the part of labour in this country. Labour has not been so organised. That is the unfortunate part of it.

Mr. President, if I were to read some figures relating to the number of trade unions registered, their membership and how many of them were organised and how many of them failed to give in returns under the provisions of the Trade Union Act, it will be found that even labour in this connection has not come up to the standard. In 1927-28 the number of registered unions was only 29 and the number of trade unions who returned their accounts under the provisions of the Trade Union Act was 28. Now I take the year 1930-31. The number of registered unions was 119, the number of trade unions which made returns was 101 and the total membership was 2,19,000. Now in the year 1935-36 the number of registered unions rose to 211, the number of registered unions which made returns rose to 205 and the membership practically remained the same, namely, 2,68,000. Then I take the pre-war year 1938-39. In this year the number of registered unions rose to 562 whereas the number of trade unions which made the returns was 391 and the membership being roughly 4 lakhs. I take the last year for which figures are available, namely, 1942-43. In this year the number of registered unions was 693 whereas the number of trade unions that submitted returns comes to 489 and the membership came to 6,85,299.

Now, it is obvious that if the trade unions failed to submit returns it only means that there is some deficiency in the organisation. I will not refer to the funds of the various trade unions nor to their management or mismanagement apart from the facts that I have quoted now one thing is clear that the labour is not strongly organised and is not able to secure recognition without the help of State intervention. Now the point is this. If the employers have done nothing to encourage healthy trade unionism and at the same time the labour is not organised and at the same time the strikes are on the increase, which is evident from facts I gave yesterday it becomes the duty of the State to intervene and bring about a state of affairs in which it will be possible to avoid dislocation in industry and to secure peace. It is no longer tenable now to say that the State

[Sjt N V Gadgil] should only see that the two contestants observe the rules of the game and the State will only watch from outside the ring. That is no longer tenable for the simple reason that the nature of the State has undergone a great change. The modern State is not merely a police State but it has become in many countries, and gradually it will be here also a sort of social service corporation. If that is so and if that is the future of State in India, it is up to us that we must move in the right direction and also have a right sort of legislation so that we may not have to go through the same process of bitter experience through which other countries have gone. Now, Mr. President so far as the criticism that was levelled against this Bill is concerned, I answered a few points yesterday raised by some of the Honourable Members of the Muslim League Party as well as the Leader of the European Group. In connection with the definition of representative union, Mr. Griffiths said that it would be much better that if the Bill provided a definition in which the whole thing would be left to the provinces. Recognised union should be that union which has been recognised by the Provincial Government, that is what he urged. If I understood him rightly, then it only means that this legislation is absolutely useless. The object of any legislation on the part of the Central Government is, as I said yesterday, to have a normative law—a model law which will be a guide to those of the provinces and the States which constitute the Central Government. Even apart from that Mr. Griffiths knows very well that there are activities in which the Central Government is directly interested, there are in which the Central Government directly exercises. Even for these things there must be some law.

* Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European). On a point of personal explanation. My Honourable friend has misunderstood me. My complaint was that the Bill did not give direction to the provincial governments as to what would constitute a representative union. I pleaded for more direction in the Bill not for less.

Sjt N V Gadgil. However, the point remains that the Central Government must guide for two reasons: one is I said to provide a model or a normative law and secondly to have some law for those areas and in those subjects in which it is directly interested. Another line of criticism that was taken by Dr. Z. Uddin Ahmad is—this is piecemeal legislation. So far as that point is concerned, nobody would welcome it now to have a fuller labour code for this country than myself. But because it is not possible in the immediate future—and when the urgency of such a Bill is practically appreciated I submit that that good should not be considered enemy of the better. Let us proceed on these lines and when time permits have a good labour code so that all matters concerning labour may be incorporated in one code but till such a thing materialises, let us not wait and create fresh difficulties and throw the entire industrial world in a disturbed condition. I am sure it is the object of every section of the House that there must be peace in industry. Now, so the activities of the trade unions so far as this country is concerned have been mainly confined in the course of the last 25 years to a consideration of wages and disputes. Beyond that they have not gone for the simple reason that there was no strong organisation, they had no funds and above all there was no encouragement either from the employers or from the State. Therefore the necessity is now that the State must intervene and if the State has to intervene, the State will do so in a manner most judicious and most impartial.

So concerning the merits of the Bill, it was suggested by my Honourable friend Miss Mam Ben Kara that the rights that will accrue after a union is recognised are not many. According to her, it virtually comes to this that the unions will have merely the right which is defined in section 28F.

* The executive of a recognised trade union shall be entitled to negotiate with employers in respect of matters connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of employment or the conditions of labour of all or any of its members and the employer shall

I agree, Sir, that this is a matter into which the Select Committee ought to go. If my direction is necessary I may respectfully point out to this House that a Bill has just been passed by the Bombay Legislative Assembly. That Bill is a Bill to regulate the relations of employers and employees, to make provision for settlement of industrial disputes and to provide for certain other purposes. In that Bill there is clause 25 which relates to rights of officers of approved unions, which are really recognised unions. Those rights cover the following points:

to hold discussions with the employees of an undertaking on the premises of the undertaking; to meet and discuss with an employer or any person appointed by him for the purpose all grievances of its members employed in his undertaking; to inspect at any place in any undertaking where any member of the union is employed, at any time reasonable by members to the union on the premises where wages are paid to them, a notice board on the premises of the undertaking in which its members are employed and affix notices thereon."

Further the Bombay Bill provides that an approved union has the right to appear before a Labour Court or an Industrial Court and may apply to the Court for the grant of legal aid at the expense of the provincial Government. Now, Sir, if some of these provisions are incorporated in section 28D, I think that should meet the wishes of my Honourable friend Miss Man. B. K. Now, Sir, so far as the withdrawal provisions are concerned I think if the Statute lays down certain conditions and the object of those conditions is to save trade unions which are recognised, work according to certain standard of efficiency and honesty, there is nothing wrong in it. My Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths referred to certain points which were made out in the report of the Royal Commission on Labour. He stated that the employers were unwilling to grant recognition firstly because the union represented only a minority of workers, secondly there was rival union rivalry, there was some political motive in it, some outsider either in the executive or in the lead and lastly, no registration. Now, Sir, there is a real difficulty in determining the representative character of the union concerned. If a union is so strong in numbers, it will not go to beg for recognition from the employer. It will come to it either by strike or by threat of a strike but it is hardly statesmanship to give recognition as a result or reward of strike. But if the union is not so strong in numbers, does it mean that there should be no recognition of a union merely because it has a small proportion of workers in that particular undertaking or industry. My humble submission is that two tests should be laid down, one of number and/or of the method by which the union functions. In other words, as has been laid down in the report of the Royal Commission on Labour the basis of the entire thing should be reason and not force. If these things are kept in mind, I have no doubt that those who are members of the Select Committee will evolve an acceptable formula whereby it will be possible to fix in suitable language a proper definition of a representative union.

As regards rival unions, the Bombay Bill has made a provision that in the case of any question arising as to which of two unions is better representative the test should be of numbers and the one having larger membership should be recognised. But there is no such thing in the present Bill. Even two unions may be recognised, the proposed section 28D does not bar the existence of two recognised unions, although I should like to agree with the principles that are incorporated in the Bombay Bill.

Now referring to the third circumstance which the employers think is a good ground for refusing recognition, namely, political opinions, I should say that it comes all from the employers. So long as the system of franchise is not entirely territorial, so long as interests are represented, so long as commerce and industry want representation in the provincial legislature as well as in the Central, labour interests must be represented wherever commercial and industrial interests are represented. If that is so—and it is so even under the provisions of the present constitution—how can you bar consideration of political matters if they come at the proper occasion before any trade union? It may be that you may not like the politics of one union, it may be that you may not like the

[Sjt N V Gadgil]

ideology of another, but so long as man is a political being—and I am sure even the employers are prepared to concede that claim to poor labourers—they cannot but think in political terms on occasions. If it is said that because of the presence of political agitators it is not possible to go ahead and grant recognition, I can only repeat the words which have been used by the Royal Commission on Labour, namely, that a dishonest political worker will not have a long innings in any trade union, for labourers surely have as much common sense as any of us and they do not take long to understand who really stands for their interests and who does not. Therefore this is something which ought not to weigh with us in considering whether that should be a good circumstance for refusing recognition, and I am glad that it has not been made so in the present Bill.

Now about unfair practices by the employers some complaint has been made. I particularly invite your attention to proposed section 28k(d) which relates to discharging or discriminating against a workman who has made allegations or given evidence in any proceedings. So you will remember that you were an arbitrator in certain proceedings in connection with a dispute between an engineering firm and its employees. One of its engineers was good enough to prepare a brief for me and supply me with all the necessary statistics. As soon as your award, which was greatly appreciated all over my province, was given, within a month of that this engineer was sacked. If I were to tell the House about the political views of that firm they are more communistic than the actual members of the Communist party. But they victimised the man, the workers went on strike. Again as a matter of settlement a judge of the Bombay High Court was appointed to decide whether it was a case of victimisation. The judge held that it was victimisation but had no power to rectify it and he could not do anything except to give some amount by way of damages. He ordered that the Engineer should be paid one year's salary. How can you prevent this except by making victimisation a offence? If on the one hand you provide in this Bill that it will be an unfair practice for a trade union for a majority of its members to take part in an irregular strike—this phrase 'irregular' is new and includes 'illegal' strike—and for the executive of the union to advise or actively to support or to instigate an irregular strike, the State—if it is to hold the scales even—must make a corresponding provision which will affect the employers. And my only regret is that it is not sufficiently strong.

I will now refer to some points which have been urged by my Honourable friend Mr Joshi. I think his speech justified his nomination—it was a pity that he was not here throughout. In his speech he said that there is no definition of the word 'industry', and I am sure the Select Committee will take this point into consideration. But if I may be of any help in indicating the lines on which the Select Committee may proceed, I will draw attention to the fact that the word 'industry' has been defined in the Bombay Bill to which I made reference just now, in section 2(18) of that Bill. And the word ought to be defined here also. In the original Act the object was not so comprehensive as is the object of the present Bill. This covers altogether a new field. There was perhaps no necessity felt for defining the word 'industry' at the time when the original Act was passed. But when you are extending the scope of that Act by amending it I think it is a case in which this word should be defined, and I am sure it will be done. Then Mr Joshi made a very good point that if the industrial court decides anything this decision of the industrial court is not binding on the Government. It is laid down in clause 28F that 'the Industrial Court shall investigate whether the Trade Union fulfils the conditions for recognition set out in section 28D, and shall forward the application to the appropriate Government with a report and a recommendation regarding the grant or withholding of recognition'. On receipt of the application for recognition and the report referred to under sub-section (3) the appropriate Government, if satisfied that the Trade Union is fit to be recognised may by notification in the official Gazette, declare the Trade Union to be a 'Recognised Trade Union'. I agree with him that if there is a necessity for some judicial machinery to determine whether a union is entitled to be a recognised union and when you lay down the conditions.

which ought to weigh with the judicial authority or quasi-judicial authority, it would not be very fair to say that the Government if otherwise satisfied will accept the finding. "It satisfied has caused me great dissatisfaction for it means that the Government will take into consideration such other things as are not mentioned in the Bill as necessary conditions for recognition. Possibly political considerations may weigh. I think, Sir, that just as I have appealed to the employers and I have condemned them for not doing what they should do, I will also appeal to the Government to give much more thought to this point which has been raised by Mr. Joshi. If the Industrial Court gives the finding that a particular Union is entitled to recognition, the Government ought to accept its finding on them."

In this connection again I wish to point out to the House that in the recent Bill which was passed by the Bombay Assembly to which I have already made reference, there is a provision—clause 95—by which the findings of the Industrial Court in binding on the parties to the dispute and Government or any department of the Government under the direction of which any industry or any undertaking is managed is equally subject to it. This is what clause 95 says:

"An order, decision or award of the Industrial Court shall be binding on:

(a) all parties to the industrial dispute who appeared or were represented before it;
(b) all parties who were summoned to appear as parties to the dispute whether they appeared or not, unless the Industrial Court is of opinion that they were improperly ~~not~~ parties;

(c) in the case of an employer who is a party to the proceeding before such Court in respect of the undertaking to which the dispute relates, his successors, heirs or assigns in respect of the undertaking to which the dispute relates; and

(d) in the case of a registered union which is a party to the proceeding before such Court all persons represented by the union at the date of the award, as well as thereafter."

I therefore submit that to bring about better relations between the employers and the employees and really to further the object, which it is stated is the object of bringing forward this Bill, I think the recommendations of the Industrial Court should be considered as binding on the parties. I therefore submit, Sir, that all these points which are put before this House will be taken into consideration by the Select Committee and the Bill that will emerge from the Select Committee will be acceptable generally to the whole House. Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, Indian Commerce). Before I come to the original Bill, Sir, I would like to state a few things about the circulation motion that has been made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ishaq Seth. It is a move which is very unfair to labour, especially when this Bill had been mooted originally in the year 1940. It is now nearly six years that the matter is pending, it would be wrong to keep this matter pending any further. If the Government allow any further delay in this matter it would be reasonable if the labour accuse the Government for not looking to the interests of labour as well as they ought to.

One of the reasons given in support of circulation is that there is some suggestion in clause 28D that communal unions may not be recognized. I would just like to remind this House about the amount of trouble there is already in the communal field. The communal trouble is not only harmed the whole country, but the industry also has been harmed to a great extent. Labour has lost millions of rupees in wages, and we must have lost millions of yards of cloth and various other consumers goods. If we take these communal differences into the factory premises and if we ask that labour may be divided into two or several communal groups, the danger would be that the strife, of which we are all tired, would get into the industrial field. Factories are good so long as they produce goods, factories are dangerous if fight gets into the factory premises. In view of this it would be very unfair to labour if we waste any further time. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable the Labour Member that as we have considered the Bill in all its aspects for the last so many years, the Select Committee may be asked to finish their work in a day or two, and if that can

[Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai]

be done, we can pass this Bill even in this Session. If the Select Committee appointed today, they can meet this evening and tomorrow and finish their work as soon as possible. It is a simple matter. All the points have already been put forth in various aspects, and so I hope that we will be able to pass this Bill in this very Session.

I would like to judge the Bill by two tests. If these tests are satisfied, I would say that the Bill is good, if not, the Bill is bad. Wherever we find that these objects are not satisfied, we must try to improve the Bill and put it on the right lines. These two tests are: firstly, the improvement and stabilisation of labour conditions and improvement of labour welfare, and secondly, the efficiency of the industry should not be injured by any provision whatsoever. If the industry is not run on efficient lines ultimately the whole country and even labour will suffer. We are a backward country industrially. We must run our industries to be put on a par with those of the West and America. If we have to see that we do not put any clause inadvertently which may be harmful to industry. If we do not run the industries efficiently and the industries are started, protection has to be granted and that for a long time. How long are we going to protect industries which run inefficiently? No labour or industrial legislation should be introduced to injure industry in any way.

Further, I must add that my honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, clarified certain points. This time I decided to speak later, so that many points may be clarified from various sides of the House, because my experience of the last session was that anything coming from an industrialist may be viewed with suspicion, and if it had come from me I fear some of the good points made by my friend, Mr. Joshi, would have been taken otherwise. If we remember the discussions in the last session on the Factory Act (Amendment) Bill, we may recall what happened. Some suggestions were made. Government had made suggestions in the Objects of the Bill while amending the Factory Act, *et c.*, that certain industries would require some exemption from the 8 hour working day provision; that the cloth production being low, they would have to see that its production is not jeopardised; that the textile industry should be allowed some time to adjust itself. But anything coming from an industrialist was suspect, and that is why I feel that it is good I am speaking at this hour. My friend Dr. Ziauddin was talking of burning all mills. That has been his hobby. This is not the first time he has been talking about that.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: He has many hobbies!

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Whom is he going to harm? The industries are well protected for all risks—it is the public consumer and the country that will suffer. That is not the way to talk of industrial labour relations. I know that my friend does not know what industrial relations are. He may be a good mathematician. He remains in his university and therefore it is permissible for him to say anything as he may like without actually knowing the facts.

Now, coming to the Bill, some of the points have been already clarified by my honourable friends, Mr. Joshi, Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Gadgil. I would not therefore dilate upon them much, but I would like to say something about the character of a representative union. I do not want to create controversies here today as to whether there should be compulsion in recognising a union or not. I would wish that there is no compulsion. But even if there is any compulsion, I would not mind. So far as we in Ahmedabad are concerned, we have had very good labour relations. There was no question of whether a union is recognised or not; rather we went further. We had permanent arbitration boards and they were run so well that the whole world was watching them and wondering how in Ahmedabad things could go on peacefully between employers and employees and this system was in existence till 1938 when the Bombay Bill came into existence and the Industrial Courts took their place. However, if there is to be compulsion I do not mind. But at the same time one has to be very

careful in revising a Bill as a result of which any union that may be recognised may be a perfect trade union. I would therefore propose that in Section 28F we must put in some sub-clauses which would clarify the position further. I agree with my friend, Mr Gadgil, that there may be politics in unions but let the politics not come into the factory. While we are working the factories the factories must be run economically, and not on political basis. Politics would come in only so far as the wages are concerned, or profit-sharing is concerned, or nationalization of industries is concerned.

Regarding my suggestions as to further points which should be added for conditions of recognition, I would suggest the following:

(1) That its rules provide for peaceful and legitimate methods being followed in all disputes with employers,

(2) That its rules provide for control of the union by actual workers representing a substantial number of persons whom the union claims to represent

(3) That its rules provide for prohibition of strikes without notice

We find in Clause 3 this

'(f) after clause (i) as relettered by this section, the following clause shall be inserted, namely

'(j) "strike" and "illegal strike" have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 (VII of 1929), and "irregular strike" means an illegal strike or a strike declared by a Trade Union in contravention of its rules referred to in clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 28D,'"

Now in this Trade Disputes Act, 1929 we find there is no provision for notice for going on strike. Does this mean that if the employee wants to go on strike, the employer will not give notice? In all progressive legislation, this provision for giving notice will be found.

The Trade Disputes Act, 1929 does not provide for any notice. I would therefore suggest that just as in the case of the latest Bombay Industrial Relations Bill there should be a notice and consultation clause, and then employees can go on strike or employers can declare a lock out.

I wish this Bill be considered so that there may not be any trouble and any loss of production so far as the country is concerned. So far as the industry is concerned, whatever industry is established, Government will have to protect it in one way or another, but the loss will not be only of the industry, but it will be of the consumers and also of labour indirectly.

I would further desire that in sub-clause 28D we have the following

(1) That its rules provide for membership of union being purely voluntary and

(2) That its rules provide for the maintenance of proper records of subscriptions collected and of negotiations with employers.

Sir, speaking about representative unions nothing is mentioned here as to which should be considered as representative unions. As my friend Mr Joshi has said the clause should clearly specify as to which shall be considered as representative unions. In this matter at least a certain percentage of membership ought to be specified. You can register a union with even one or ten members. Are you to consider that union as a representative union? I am sure that this should be clarified.

Regarding industrial courts I would not like to dilate upon as sufficient has been said on it. There will be eminent judges on the board and their decision ought to be final. When the Industrial Courts considers the application of a union for recognition there is no provision that the employers should also be consulted. I want the employers to be consulted, not because the employers would want to intervene in the recognition but there may be certain information in their possession which would be useful or which would help the Industrial Court to decide whether all the facts put before it are correct and can be relied upon. Many unions when they ask for recognition do not give up all the facts. As suggested in clause 28G, sub-clauses a, b, c, even for these reasons alone

[Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai] employers should be consulted so that they may be able to give any information that may be in their possession

Now coming to the most important part of the Bill about unfair practices, I would refer you to clause 28J. It is said

"The following shall be deemed to be unfair practices on the part of a recognised Trade union, namely —

- (a) For a majority of the members of the union to take part in an irregular strike"

Mark the words "majority of the members". The result of this wording would be that the employees can shatter or ruin an industry by going on factorywise strikes. The industry may consist of several factories. If there are 50 factories in an industry the union in every one of the factories will go on strike one after the other and bring them down to their point of view by sheer coercion. I feel that these words have been put in inadvertently, because if a majority of the members of a union have to strike, they will be striking in all the factories. It is a very dangerous proposition. Why talk of only an industry. Take any occupation. The men can go on strike. The occupation may only contain 50, 100 or 200 men and if those men are taken away the whole industry will have to close down and still it will not be an unfair practice.

Sub-clause (b) says it will be an unfair practice "for the executive of the Union to advise or actively to support or to instigate an irregular strike". Suppose the executive of a union does not pass a resolution calling for a strike but informally leaves every member of the Executive free to instigate a strike, will it not be an unfair practice according to this Bill? Is it the intention of the Bill that every individual member of the executive will be free to instigate a strike? I do not think that that would be the purpose of the Bill. Therefore I submit that there is defect in the language of the bill.

Coming to clause 28K, it is said

"The following shall be deemed to be unfair practices on the part of an employer, namely —

- (c) to encourage or discourage membership of any Trade Union by discrimination in regard to hire or tenure of employment or any term or condition of employment"

What does this mean? How are we going to prove discrimination? Whom are we to hire or engage. Suppose there are only half a dozen posts vacant and there are 12 members of different unions wanting those posts. Whom shall we engage, either of one union or the other? Will it not be discrimination against one union or the other? It is a very dangerous provision and I wish it is deleted. Otherwise it would create such an amount of complication that you will not be able to decide as to what discrimination means.

Sir, it is often said that law is an ass.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: But not the lawyer!

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Lawyers also misunderstand things. One court will say one thing and another court another thing. If there is going to be this difficulty about discrimination what penalty will you impose? The employer may think that he is fair in employing.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab Muhammadan). Sir, is the Honourable Member in order in discussing the clauses at such great detail at this stage?

Mr. President: His object seems to be to point to certain lacunae to which he thinks the attention of the Select Committee requires to be invited. That is what he is mentioning. His main argument seems to be that the various clauses in the Bill are so vaguely worded that they will produce dangerous results, if they are allowed to stand as they are.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: That can be considered by the members of the Select Committee.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will put his arguments shortly

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: In connection with this clause I was also talking about penalty. The employer does not know or does not understand what will be an unfair practice according to him. The courts may have such a vague understanding about discrimination and if the employer is to be fined, I think the interests of both employer and the employee will not be served. There will be a lot of indiscipline, because while employing people in emergencies the unions may have to be consulted and one union may say one thing and another another thing and there will be trouble. Again, I find that penalty has been laid on the head of the employer only. I do not understand why it should not be bothways, if there is to be penalty at all. The Swedish law is considered most progressive so far as labour legislation is concerned. Once the conciliation machinery arrives at a decision, the law provides that whoever breaks the law will be penalised. I would therefore wish that if there is to be penalty it should apply to both or rather I wish that there is no penalty clause at all. Because the relationship between employers and employees should not be spoiled in any way. They have both to work together day in and day out and if there is anything in the Bill that would harm this relationship I would say that that Bill is not worth having. There are a few such clauses in this Bill and I hope we may be able to remove some of them and put better clauses in their place.

Regarding the vagueness in the Bill generally, I say that many things have been left to the appropriate government. That is not correct. **I P. M.** After all, rule-making powers are for fulfilling the objects of any Bill. They should not lay down any particular provisions which can go against the Bill and as far as possible the powers of the appropriate government should be as few as possible. With these few words I conclude my remarks.

Mr. S. Guruswami (Nominated Non-official). Sir, I rise to support the motion for reference to the Select Committee. After seeing the empty benches opposite and having heard the lengthy speeches of the previous speakers on the subject, I have very little enthusiasm to dilate on this Bill, except to draw the attention of members of this House to certain salient points.

We have heard eloquent speeches about the defects of the Bill in so far as it seeks to confer certain rights on certain unions. But in the beginning I should like to say that the Trade Union Act itself is defective in not allowing many workers to form themselves into trade unions for registration. I know of certain trade union registrars who have refused registration of unions on the ground that the workers therein are not employed in any trade or industry. If the definition of industry had been of the description which was rightly pointed out by my honourable friend Mr. Gadgil, then this difficulty would not have arisen, but *bona fide* cases of trade unions where applications have been made for registration and refused, have occurred, and this is the occasion for the member in charge of the Bill to rectify that difficulty by amplifying the definition of workmen, and the trade unions as defined in this Act.

Secondly, the Act says "A trade union includes also a federation of trade unions." The rights of a recognised federation of trade unions should be of a different order than the one specified in this Bill. That is a matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill.

Thirdly, certain members, especially my friend Mr. Nauman, wanted that the clause relating to communal unions should be eliminated. If that clause is eliminated, let me make it perfectly clear, all the good that is contemplated under this Bill will go. We would rather have no unions than have communalism in trade unions. That is the attitude which the working classes have.

What are the privileges conferred by this Bill? The rights that are conferred relate to four types of unions—unions which are recognised by the

[Mr S. Guruswami] employers, government recognised unions through the industrial courts, unregistered unions, and lastly registered but non-recognised unions. These four types of unions are covered within the clauses of this Bill, and what this Bill proposes to do is to make the unions recognised by the employers—whatever be the reasons for that—and unions which are approved by the government to be on an equal footing, and to confer on the members of unrecognised unions certain rights in so far as union practices on the part of the employers are concerned, by protecting them against such union practices. That clause relating to union practices is copied from a legislation in a country in America. It is a perfect copy—even the punctuation mistake is there!—and I do not think that any employer should complain about it.

But what I am worried about is this: this Bill ostensibly provides for very big privileges, but in fact it only confers this right, the right of getting negative replies. The right of getting negative replies is not recognition. That is not what the workers want. What the workers want is this: if there is a *bona fide* union—no matter whether the employer recognises it or not—it should be recognised by the government as such.

Why should there be a clause about representative trade unions? Every trade union is representative of its members, and who is that gentleman here or anywhere outside who dares to question the representative character of any such trade union, in so far as its own members are concerned?

Then, unless you make the recognition worth getting by the union, the stage has come when unions do not care for recognition. Let me make that perfectly clear. I take it that this Bill is a recognition of the fact that it is more for the good of the employer himself to recognise unions than for the workers. If you lay down the policy that no union should go on strike without conducting negotiations, if it is an approved policy that the trade union concerned should be given the opportunity to represent, then what are the privileges which this Bill gives? It gives the right of getting a negative reply. That is all. I say a recognised union must be entitled to get not only a reply. Even a cat may look at a king and may get a reply from him. That is not what the recognised trade union should get. It must get reasoned replies. It must get the employer's version of the cases referred to him. All the data that is available to him must be made available to a recognised union, so that proper conclusions may be formed and avoidable disputes may be avoided. But if you only say that under the provisions of this Bill a reply can be vouchsafed for that recognised union, unions will not care to get that recognition at all. We want that there should be the right of concluding collective agreements. There is no reference to that word at all in any of these measures that are now before this House. A trade union is not worth its name unless it is given the right to conclude collective agreements. It must have the right to be consulted before any conditions of service are altered, otherwise what is the use of its recognition? And yet we have opposition on the part of vested interests—and left-handed support on the part of some—saying "We are in favour of the Bill, but please circulate it." That is not the proper way of dealing with this question.

Any disruptive tendency in the trade union movement must be resisted. The Trade Union Act not only confers the right for any seven fools to form a trade union; it does not prevent any such seven men to form an infinite number of unions. The same seven members can form an infinite number of unions and get them registered under the Trade Union Act. There is no protection against such weakening of unions in so far as the workers are concerned. Therefore I submit that we must resist tendencies to form sectional unions, tendencies to form communal unions and denominational unions. We should resist that tendency and a registrar should not simply proceed to register a union because within the four corners of the Trade Union Act a particular organisation claims to have fulfilled all the qualifications that are required under it.

Therefore this is the occasion for Honourable Members to prevent the formation, registration and recognition of bogus unions. Otherwise all this legislation about the recognition or registration is of no good. Let me make that perfectly clear once again.

Then I have another thing to say. I do not want to accept the suggestion made by my honourable friend Mr. Lallubhai that a provision should be made for voluntary membership of a union. On the other hand I go to the other extreme. I do not know whether my friends here who represent labour share my view but I have been of this view for a long time that membership in a trade union must be compulsory and not voluntary. Non-members of the unions are exploiters and parasites who live on the gains of the labour of those who are members of the unions. They take all the benefits given to the members. If the employers only give the members of the unions the benefits secured by the unions concerned it is all right but the benefits which are secured by a union go to non-members as well and the employers have a two-fold policy in dealing with unions. First resist the recognition as far as possible and if that is inevitable create bogus unions and give too much of recognition to bogus organisations. These two tendencies must be combated. Unless those things are prevented in this Bill with proper safeguards, the benefits sought to be conferred by this Bill will be nugatory in effect and I therefore appeal to Honourable Members to see that trade union membership is made compulsory, that bogus unions are not encouraged, that multiplicity of unions is discouraged, that sectional unions are not recognised, that all workers who are members of *bona fide* trade unions are permitted to be registered and also to be recognised under the provisions of this Act and to confer on the recognised unions real benefits, not the paper benefit of the right to get negative replies which are sought to be given by this Bill. These are the suggestions I have got to make. I do not propose to make a long speech on this subject now. In the course of about 10 minutes, I have stated 10 points and I hope they would receive the consideration of the members of the Select Committee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Labour has spoken. Capitalists have spoken. It is the turn of the layman to speak. I am the person who suffers, along with the rest of the people of this country, if labour and capital go on engaging in eternal warfare. Unfortunately during the past few years, at any rate during the last two or three years, we have been seeing strikes after strikes from end to end and the strikes have gone so far that even the non-gazetted officers in Madras went on strike against the Ministry that came into office recently. I feel that in the interests of the community organised and contented labour is absolutely necessary. It is an asset both to the industry and to the nation. Therefore this half hearted measure to encourage labour unions and when they are organised, to recognise them is not sufficient. I would like labour should be organised both horizontally and vertically all over this country. I will make my point clear. If there are 20 labourers in a factory, then it comes under the Factories Act. Wherever there are groups of 20 persons, the Labour Department must go there and recognise it and ask it to form a union. There shall be no factory without a labour union. Every industry, as soon as it is formed, will automatically come under the Factories Act and there shall be a labour union attached to it. It shall consist of all members who are employed in that particular factory. Wholesome provisions should be made both in this Act and future Acts to safeguard against sabotage by individual workmen to safeguard the interests of the industry. There may be individual workmen who may be entrusted with an important piece of machinery and they may not care for the industry. Collectively they will be interested in the industry. It is to the interest of the employer himself to see that organised labour is there to take care of the industry, in order to see that sabotage at the sweet will and pleasure of an individual is prevented. There must be for each industry a labour union in a particular place. All labour unions must

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 join together in a federation, to whatever denomination they may belong. There must be branches in the villages, taluqs, districts and there must be a central organisation for the country as a whole for each industry at the centre. There will be an organisation of all labour unions, embracing as widely as possible all persons who are employed in labour.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may continue his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My request at the outset is that the Clock in the Library should be set right. It is going five minutes slow as compared to our time. I have been looking at that clock and that is the reason why I am late.

Sir, I was submitting to the House that labour must be organised horizontally and vertically and I explained also how it ought to be done. There may be a large element of compulsion but I do not agree with my Honourable friend the Baronet from Bombay who sits on my right. He says 'labour must lend itself to organise. It has been left to organise for itself. How is he afraid of compulsion?' Are we not used to compulsion in various departments in our social activities? Today there is a cry that there should be free and compulsory education. Are we not, most of us, uneducated? Unless our children are educated, they cannot be civilised. In spite of all this, everybody knows how many of us are putting our children into the schools. There is an element of compulsion in the Health Department where we are compulsorily vaccinated. I do believe it is necessary that so far as labour is concerned, it must be compulsorily organised. Have they failed to organise themselves in the right lines? In some cases they have organised themselves, but in some other cases they have failed to organise themselves. Let us not be terribly afraid of compulsion. I agree with my friend Mr. Gujarauni that it ought not be left to any individual labourer to keep out of the organisation. Any man who is out of it will be a danger to the rest of the organisation. It is by splitting these organisations that the employers have been able to have their own way till now in dealing with them. Therefore, every member, every worker shall be compulsorily a member of that organisation. I would also urge that so far as their disputes are concerned, the provision in the Bill is a good one and I welcome it.

Sir, there are two provisions in the Bill which ought to make this Bill quite acceptable to the House. One is with regard to the Industrial Court and the other relates to victimisation by the employers. If for nothing else, for these two provisions alone this Bill ought to be immediately accepted. We need not wait till January or some other time. This Bill can be passed through the Select Committee and then made into an Act. There are various other matters which can be brought in as and when circumstances permit and this piece of legislation might be pushed through the Legislature. And when all the necessary legislation on this subject is passed, there may be a Code. Till then, individual matters must be taken and they ought not to stand in the way of this piece of legislation.

I also want one or two matters to be put into this Bill. I am anxious, having regard to the manner in which strikes have been organised by persons who are not real workmen but persons who are interested in various other matters and who have taken hold of these labour unions. To avoid that, there must be a wholesome provision. I do not want these strikes unless it is impossible for the workmen or the 'abcurers' to get what they want at the hands of the employers.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated non-official) Who is to decide that?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do want this Industrial Court to decide or let there be compulsory arbitration for that matter. It ought not be optional either to the workman or to the employer to jointly agree to arbitration. At the instance of either party, the dispute ought to be referred to arbitration and before any strike is organised, all means of settling the matter ought to be exhausted. There is a provision in the Bill stating the manner in which a strike is organised and the manner in which the notice of a strike is given. All that has got to be provided for. There is a provision here that every trade union shall make provision for the manner in which the strike is organised. Therefore, it is quite appropriate to suggest that all methods of amicable settlement or even of reference to arbitration should be exhausted before a strike is organised. It must be open to the court or to the arbitrator to say that the employer has failed to satisfy the labour and therefore they are at liberty to strike. Till then, there should be no strike. I urge this in the interests of the community as a whole. Take the case of the railways. There are about three or four lakhs of workmen there. They might have grown in size now on account of the war. If they go on strike, the rest of the community have to suffer merely because on the one side the Government does not fulfil their demands and on the other the workmen push them too high. Let there be no impression that these two parties have to quarrel eternally like cats and dogs. We have got our civilisation and we can chalk out a new path and show that these people can live harmoniously and they can settle their differences amicably. Therefore, the Industrial Court must be empowered to decide not only individual cases of grievance but also major issues between the workmen on the one side and the employer on the other as to whether the wages have got to be increased or not. In default of the employers agreeing to this provision which is made in the interests of the industry as a whole, a strike can be started.

I find that there is a lacuna in the Bill which can be set right in the Select Committee. What the Bill says is that the Industrial Court shall have jurisdiction over those matters only which are enumerated in Chapter IIIA. It says

"For the purposes of this Chapter, the appropriate Government shall appoint such number of Industrial Courts as it considers necessary."

That Chapter refers only to recognition of trade unions. Chapter IIIB relates to unfair practices and clause 7 refers to penalty for unfair practices. Therefore, whenever an employer is guilty of an unfair practice, he is to be punished to the extent of a thousand rupees by way of penalty. The Industrial Court does seem to have jurisdiction over that because it is in a different Chapter. Why should the jurisdiction of the Industrial Court be restricted to mere recognition of trade unions and not extend to disputes regarding unfair practices? In case the Court comes to the conclusion that the employer is guilty of any unfair practice, why should he not be punished? Why should not the Court have a jurisdiction in that matter? Therefore, in the interests of the trade itself labour must be organised.

Now, I come to the motion for circulation to elicit public opinion. Sir, my Honourable friend who is now sitting on the other side himself recognised, and so must all other persons who are interested in this country, that religion has played out its part in the world. All honour to the old prophets who came at a time when there were warring elements in the country and they brought all the warring elements under one banner. Religions, as they originally started, were merely to remove differences between man and man and to inculcate the doctrine of brotherhood in many and to elevate man into a divine being. But today, those very religions unfortunately symbolise the outer crust, the inner spirit has disappeared, and those very religions are disturbing factors in society. We have now therefore to find new points of everlasting and enduring benefit to humanity. Students of religion should not talk today of nationalism, internationalism etc., but should talk of humanity.

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and the common good of the entire humanity should take the place of individual and a warring religions. I wish that all persons who are really interested in their own religion, in Islam, in Christianity or in Hinduism will really try to imbibe this spirit of real Islam, real Christianity and real Hinduism. Even these prophets of religion have advised their respective followers and all humanity as a whole to bring all people together and enjoined on their followers that they should bring about peace and happiness on earth and not create cause for discord which does not serve the tenets of God or his dictates. Therefore I would urge upon my Honourable friend that under this common platform of labour union, all communities may join. If some unions have been started on communal lines, well, let us own that a mistake has been made. It is time that these mistakes are rectified. Today each community may be proud of its own religion, but it does not see the danger ahead. There is communism rearing its head, communism does not talk of any religion. The communists are out to divide one community from another, they are out to destroy all religions. There will be communism from one end to another. There will be absolutely no faith in God left in the land. Let us try to prevent this catastrophe. I call upon all people who are believers in God, by whatever name the one God is called. I urge upon my Honourable friend Mr. Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth to withdraw his motion for circulation or at any rate not to press it. What are we to gain by this circulation among the industrialists or employers, who have not moved in this matter at all or among organised labour unions. The industrialists will simply say there shall be no element of compulsion. We have already in this House the mouthpieces of industrialists of this country, the one to my right, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, and the other to my left Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai. They are the exponents of the theory of no compulsion, no freedom so far as trade unionism is concerned. As regards labour, we have got the exponents of labour problems here of both sexes, including my honourable friend Miss Maniben Kara who believes in class war and class hatred. I therefore submit that if this Bill goes to circulation for eliciting public opinion, we know what pattern of opinion we are going to get. The industrialists will say, no compulsion, labour will say, let us have as many amenities as possible. In these circumstances we are not going to gain anything by this circulation. I urge that this motion may be dropped and this Bill may be sent to the Select Committee and more beneficent measures may be adopted in the Select Committee and I hope that after this Bill emerges from this Select Committee, it will be a first class measure for the purpose of orderly maintenance of industry in this country.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member) Mr. President, Sir, I do not want to enter into a lengthy debate at this hour in the House. Different speakers from different parts of this Honourable House have expressed their opinion on the different aspects of the measure before the House and the objections raised by certain sections have been met by other sections of the House and my task has been rendered less difficult to a very great extent. As regards the salient features of the Bill I shall never take credit for the same, because the Bill was introduced by my predecessor. I shall readily agree that there is sufficient scope for the improvement in the Bill and I shall try my best to meet all reasonable points, that have been raised now, in the Select Committee. But there are certain points on which I think, if Government were to yield, it will be detrimental not only to labour but to the industry as well. On those points, I am afraid I am not going to yield. The purpose of the Bill as I conceive it, is not only to give some benefit to labour alone but to industry as well. Labour and industry are inseparable factors, the one depends upon the other. One cannot work without the other, and therefore each has got to look to the interest of both. If industry looks to the interest of labour, it is in the interest of industry itself. Similarly if labour looks to the interest of industry, I may say, it is not merely in the interest of industry but it is in the interest of labour as

well Sir, the very idea of collective bargaining, if I may be permitted to say so, is not only in the interest of labour but it is also in the interest of capital it is also in the interest of industry

My Honorable friend Mr Griffiths, when he was very analytically criticising the various points in the Bill made a remark that I may feel distressed by his remarks I may assure my Honourable friend that I did not feel distressed in the least But I may very well urge upon him that the industrialists should mark the signs of the time, they should realise that the time has come when they cannot afford to ignore the demands of labour The time has come when they cannot afford not to recognise the organisation of workers unless they are forced to do so If I may say so, Sir, many of the disputes that arise between labour and industry between employers and employees are on this issue of recognition of unions If one were to analyse and study the large number of strikes that have become a common feature of the day, one will admit the fact unhesitatingly that in the majority of cases, the dispute arose on this question Where the workers are organised sufficiently, the management is forced to recognise them, but after the relation between them has deteriorated to a very great extent that ultimately results not only in strike, but it leads to great suffering to labour and also entails great loss to capital and over and above that great inconvenience to the consumers at large So, Sir the Government of today cannot afford to be silent spectators of the disputes between employers and employees because it is not only these two parties who suffer but it is the public at large, the nation at large and the consumers at large who also suffer Sir, the Government have got to interfere in these matters I am afraid, Sir, this measure ought to have been on the statute book long before If some objections are raised today by one party or the other I have to say that they are not realising the signs of the times

With regard to the motion for circulation moved by my Honourable friend Mr Ismaiq Sethi I submit that the Bill has been before the country for the last six years,—though not in this identical form,—and its principles have been discussed more than once They have been discussed by the various Provincial Governments, by employers' organisations and workers' organisations, and other bodies On certain points, of course, opinions are divergent as they are here, but on a measure like this we cannot—at least I cannot—conceive of complete unanimity And the fact that from this measure neither the workers nor the employers are fully satisfied shows that the measure is not partial to one side or the other The measure is one which seeks to give certain rights to labour but at the same time it also states that industry should not be placed at a handicap

While initiating the debate my Honourable friend Dr Zia Uddin introduced certain fundamental things I,—and, as he reminded me, the class I come from,—feel that it will be a happy day indeed when these principles would be adopted in this country and the economic set-up of the country started on these lines He talked of nationalisation, failing which, national socialism I do not want to express any opinion on these two principles But I may say that if any change in the economic set-up were to be effected, the class I come from and the community I represent will not lose anything It is the community which stands to gain by any such economic reconstruction But we have not got to look at these things and wait for such times as the differences between employers and workers, between capital and labour and between the exploiters and the exploited are removed We cannot afford to wait till then and let things take their own course And therefore we have to devise some measures in the existing circumstances in the four corners of the economic structure of our present society to safeguard the interests of labour and also to see that the industries prosper with a view to catering to the needs of the country And this is a measure which seeks to improve the relation between the employers and the workers I believe many of the differences which arise between the employers and their workers can be resolved if chances were taken for mutual negotiation, discussion and conciliation between them And for that we have

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got to devise some machinery. The employers employing hundreds and thousands of workers cannot afford to discuss questions with each and every one of them, and it will not be expedient on the part of labour to allow negotiations between each worker and the management. Therefore it is to the interest of the employers as well the workers to have an organisation and an agency which may in case of differences carry on negotiations and settle these differences. After all, that is the object which this Bill seeks to achieve. It wants that recognition should be given to organisations of workers, so that in the long run they may have an opportunity of negotiating and settling any differences that may arise, and there should not be any difficulty on that score. As I have urged, it is in the interest of both employers and the workers.

A point has been made that there is a germ of compulsion in it. Of course that is one of the salient features of this Bill and it has got to be there because industrialists and employers by taking advantage of their strength and influence have tried not to recognise organisations and unions of workers serving under them. There have been occasions when employers would like to negotiate with persons at the helm of affairs in the unions unofficially rather than deal with them officially. They are afraid that if they negotiate with them as presidents or secretaries of labour organisations they will be recognising these labour unions, they therefore negotiate with the office-bearers, if they happen to be public men of influence, in their unofficial capacity because they are afraid that if they do not negotiate with them they will have to suffer badly. And ultimately when the workers are compelled to take recourse to certain steps, most of the employers are forced to recognise the unions. And this Bill intends that this mutual friction between the employer and the workers may be obviated. Therefore, Sir, I feel that there should be no ground for any objection on the part of employers to this measure.

Some complaint has been made here by the representatives of the workers that the terms and conditions which have been laid down for the recognition of unions are unnecessary. I hold the contrary view because I feel that these terms and conditions are necessary in the interest of the workers' organisations themselves. I want the workers' organisations—their trade union—to be efficient and above board. And for this purpose these terms and conditions are necessary. I have some personal experience of the working of trade unions, not so big of course as my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi and other friends have worked, and I know the drawbacks and defects of those unions. If these terms and conditions are carried out faithfully it will make the unions stronger and more efficient and therefore I hold Sir that these conditions are necessary.

One point that has been made here with some force is that the Bill has not given any definition of a 'representative union'. That has been purposely done. In a Bill like this to which several Provincial Governments have to give effect, some elasticity is necessary. The conditions of labour movement in different provinces are not similar. Some provinces are much more industrially advanced than other provinces and in those provinces the organisation of labour, the organisation of working classes, as well as the Government machinery which deals with them, are elaborate. In other provinces the machinery of the Provincial Governments is just in the initial stages. The organisation of workers in many provinces and in many industries has not started as yet. I am afraid we cannot lay down any universal condition for the unions of workers to be representative in different parts of the country. They have to be different in different parts of the country and even in different industries. If I were to make this point or to develop this point a bit further I may submit that the same percentage of workers in a union for the union to be really representative can not be insisted upon in the case of the workers working in the TATAS and in the case of the workers working in the coal fields. The percentage has to be fixed differently in these two cases. And similarly many examples may be given in which that percentage has to be different in different industries, and that is why no percentage has been fixed in this case. I still hold that we should not

lay down any hard and fast rule here. We should give some option to the Provincial Governments to prescribe these things in the rules which may suit the conditions obtaining in their respective areas.

One thing which has been said and which I frankly admit has got to be provided in the Bill is that the Bill has not given any definition of 'industry'. That will I think be rectified in the Select Committee.

There are other minor points with regard to some defects in drafting or some changes in wording here and there which may very well be rectified in the Select Committee, and I do not think there is any reason for me to raise any objection on that score.

Then, Sir, there is another point which generated some heat yesterday,—I do not want to enter into greater details on that point—and that is about the non-recognition of unions formed on communal lines. Personally, Sir, I hold very strong views on this point. Unfortunately we cannot afford to stretch this point too much. I shall request my Honourable friends who hold this view that communal unions should be given recognition or communal unions should be formed to conceive the consequences which this step will ultimately lead to. Today we may think of two or three communities, but what will be the ultimate result in future is simply staggering. I will give some examples from the Hindus themselves. There have been cries that in the Hindu Society there are the upper caste Hindus, the backward communities and the scheduled castes. So far as the broad two divisions—the caste Hindus and the scheduled castes are concerned, I do not want to touch them. I am taking the caste Hindus. Some cries were raised by the backward communities which communities are not educationally, economically and socially well-advanced as a few selected castes at the helm of the Hindu society. So the cry was that something should be given to them, some reservation should be made for them. Well, reservations were not made but in giving representation in certain local bodies, or in setting up candidates from different communities it was kept in view that some representation should be given to those castes which are called the backward communities. But the matter did not end there. Among the backward communities there are so many castes and all those castes are not equally developed or equally backward. Now the cry arose that a certain caste has got more and a certain caste had got less. So ultimately you have to face a cry where every caste will come forward and will say some provision has got to be made for this caste and I do not know where this will lead to. Similarly, if I were to give an example from the Muslim community I may say that there is a cry from the Momins today, there is a cry from the Rayones, from a number of functional castes that they are backward educationally, socially, and economically and they require protection. If we were to allow such considerations

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab, Muhammadan). You will have to reconsider your views as regards Muslims.

Mr. President: Order, order. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am afraid, Sir, I do not know where these things will lead us to. You may take any religion, any caste, any community. I may give an example of Christians. They have no untouchability among them. But what is there in actual practice? I know a large number of untouchable Christians. Though among Sikhs such things are not permitted. I know a large number of untouchable Sikhs. Everywhere this division is present. If we are to stretch it there will be no end to it. We may have communal unions today. We may have Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh unions. We may be thinking of these four particular divisions today, but to-morrow, I am afraid, there might be a thousand divisions in each of these four divisions. Therefore, I do not feel inclined to think that in such matters, which are purely economic we should introduce communal considerations. I need not dilate upon those points which have been advanced by some friends or other in this House that trade unionism conceives a class organisation and

[Shri Jagjivan Ram] repeat the same arguments. There, there is neither Hindu nor Muslim, neither a Christian nor a Sikh in Trade Unions. There are only two classes—the class of the employers and the employed, the workers and the employers, and the workers be they Hindu or Muslim, Christian or Sikh, or of any other denomination they have then common interests. Well, Sir, I do not want to dilate upon this point to any great extent. But this is my personal view. I hold it very strongly. In these matters where workers have got their common interests we cannot introduce communal considerations.

Then, Sir regarding the motion of my friend for circulation. As I have already submitted the Bill has been before the country for a long time. Public opinion has been expressed upon it more than enough and there is no reason for referring it again to the public for giving their opinion upon it. I do not feel inclined to accept that motion and I rather oppose it.

I have to say nothing more than what I have said. The measure is one which is in the interests of the labourers as well as in the interests of the employers, and it has been before the country for a long time and it does not require to be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. Therefore, I commend that my motion be accepted. I may very well appeal to my friend, the mover of the amendment to be kind enough to withdraw his motion because no useful purpose will be served by sending the Bill into circulation for eliciting public opinion.

I am, however, proposing one slight change in the personnel of the Select Committee. Instead of Seth Yusuf Abdooli Haroon, the name of Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang be substituted.

With these words, Sir, I appeal to my friend to withdraw his motion and I appeal to the Honourable Members of the House to accept my motion.

Mr. President: I believe in order to have that change of name.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: One word, Sir, if you will permit me. I am given to understand that my friend, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth is agreeable not to press his motion. In that case I may assure my friend and my friends in the House that I will departmentally circulate this Bill for eliciting opinion thereon and shall call a meeting of the Select Committee in January next and place those opinions before the Select Committee.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris, Muhammadan): On that statement, I am willing to withdraw my amendment but I want to make it clear that my party's objection to that particular clause remains.

Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: As regards the other small amendment, I think it may be necessary to move a specific motion to that effect.

Mr. S. C. Joshi (Government of India, Nominated Official): Sir, I move—

"That in the names of the Members of the Select Committee, the name of Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang be substituted for the name of Seth Yusuf Abdooli Haroon."

Mr. President: So now there is a motion for reference to the Select Committee and there is an amendment to it for a change in the personnel. I do not think I need read the original motion now before the House. I would first place the amendment.

The question is—

"That in the names of the Members of the Select Committee, the name of Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang be substituted for the name of Seth Yusuf Abdooli Haroon."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I now put to the House the motion as amended for acceptance.

The question is

That the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. M. Joshi, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai, Sir T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Sreejath Kohni Kumar Chaudhuri, Mr. P. J. Griffiths, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sardar Sampuran Singh, Mr. S. C. Joshi, Miss Maniben Karia, Mr. S. Guruswami, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer, N. C. Ghulam Bhik Nairang, and the Mover, and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

The motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE ACCOUNTS OF 1943-44

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I beg to move

"That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1943-44 be taken into consideration."

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1943-44 be taken into consideration."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) Is not the Honourable Member going to say anything in support of it?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I am trying to maintain the past traditions of this House. In the past the Finance Member did not make any speech when he made such motion, and as I believe in even greater economy than at my predecessors in office, I do not propose to depart from past practice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr. President Sir I wish to congratulate my honourable friend, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, for being fortunate enough to come to occupy this very exalted position in our National Government. As this is the second time that an Indian comes to occupy this position naturally it is a matter for national congratulation also.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural) The first was Todarmull.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Long before Todarmull was born, there used to be our own great Kautilya even of historic time!

Shri Sri Prakasa: He was Home Member!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He was Home Member and also Finance Member and he has left a great treatise also on finance which it would do us a great good to study with care. It would have pleased me very much and I am sure it would have pleased the House also very much if the Honourable the Finance Member, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, had cared to make a few observations on this report that is before us. But as is usual with him he is extremely discreet and therefore he has contented himself with merely making the motion and asking the House to form its own opinion in regard to the report that is placed before us.

This is the first occasion when a responsible and I hope responsive Indian Finance Member comes before us with a report like this and therefore it is necessary that we should not only congratulate him but also warn him that great responsibilities today rest upon his shoulders. It is not going to be a very easy thing for an Indian Finance Minister not only to manage the affairs of his own department but also to control the financial aspect of the various departments that he has got to keep a watch on throughout the year and all the time. Sir, the Finance Department is supposed to be the watchdog of the finances at the whole of the Government and to that extent it must play its role as a watchdog over the activities of all the departments of the Government. I dare say it might have been one of the reasons why my Honourable friend was so very particular about coming into this particular position. I do not grudge him that privilege. I am glad anyway that there is an Indian in that place and I am glad also that this particular department has at last come under the control of a responsible member of this House. He may, for the time being, happen technically to be a nominated member in this House but let us hope that very soon

[Prof N G Ranga]

when we come to have our own constitution we shall have an elected Finance Minister to be at the head of our Finance Department

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: What is under discussion—the Finance Member of the Public Accounts Committee Report?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Finance Member has to deal not only with the report of the Public Accounts Committee but also with public finances. It is most essential, if one goes through this particular report, that the Finance Member as well as the Finance Department have got to learn to exercise much greater control over these various departments than they have done in the past.

Again and again it has been stated in this report that the Defence Department and the various officers in that department have been ignoring the instructions, specific instructions, given to them, not only by their own financial officers but also by the Finance Department. In the past the Finance Member found himself almost helpless to control the defence services and to control their expenditure also and it would be a very bad thing indeed for the interests of our country and for the finances of our country if the present Finance Member did not try to improve that state of things and did not succeed in making the various officers and the whole of the Defence Department more responsible than they have been till now.

Secondly, there is a case here of how the Bengal Government had mismanaged the funds placed at its disposal by the Central Government. I do not wish to read all the unsavoury paragraphs contained in this report about the way in which the Bengal Government had behaved shabbily with Central finances but I do wish to draw the attention of the Finance Department as well as that of the Finance Minister to two or three sentences in it.

On page 6 it is said

We cannot conceive of any set of conditions in which there could possibly be any justification for the disregard of such elementary common sense precautions as the taking of receipts for money paid or of maintaining records of payment."

What a provincial Government it is, that it should not have taken receipts for the money that it has paid or kept accounts of the moneys that have been disbursed by them. I do not want similar things to be repeated in future either by the Bengal Government or any other provincial government and it is the duty of the Finance Department to see that in future at least provincial governments are not placed in possession of central funds of such magnitude that they play ducks and drakes with our money and afterwards we find ourselves completely helpless.

It so happened while we were on this committee, now for a period of two years that every legitimate and peaceful effort was made in order to invite the Bengal Government to send its representative to face the Public Accounts Committee and explain its own conduct and the Bengal Government failed to come and face us. I know we had no opportunity of taking them to task in any other way, for the simple reason that the Bengal Government happens to be enjoying not only provincial autonomy but something in addition to that, because of its special political position in this country. Whether any particular provincial Government enjoys any extra-constitutional or extra-political status or not, it is absolutely necessary for the Finance Department of the Government of India to see that no provincial government is allowed to enjoy the kind of privilege that the Bengal Government had come to be allowed, such as not taking receipts for the moneys disbursed and not even keeping accounts for the moneys that they were spending. It might do so, if it so wishes with its own money but even that is objectionable but no provincial government can be allowed, not even the Bengal Government to repeat this very bad example.

Very soon the time is coming when the Government of India would have to budget not for the short period of one year but for a longer period may be of two, five or even ten years and then come down to preparing its budget for the shorter period of one year only in that bigger perspective of a five year or ten year plan.

hitherto it has not been the practice but in future the Government of India has got to do it, it really is to take effective steps to advance the economic progress of our country. In the past even though it was trying to prepare a budget for only one year, it used to make so many mistakes or blunders and therefore unless the Honourable the Finance Minister takes only steps to rehabilitate his own Finance Department and prepares it to face the new tasks that are going to be placed on its shoulders, he would very soon find that his department would be incapable of helping him in the manner in which the nation expects him to plan for this country. There is the question of budgetary control over first, the estimates, and then of expenditure. Complaints are made in this report and are being made even in the latest report that is being signed, that the budgetary control of the Finance Department is not strong enough, that during the last 6 or 7 years of the so-called war period or war crisis, this budgetary control has become very lax indeed, and this committee has recommended that it should be tightened again. I need only underline these remarks of this committee in this regard.

Coming to the other question of supplementary grants, it has become almost a habit of the Finance Department to sanction a number of unnecessary supplementary demands and bring them before this House and let the money be sanctioned and afterwards find that the money was not needed at all and therefore could not be spent and it had to be surrendered later on. This sort of practice is not conducive to proper budgetary control over our own finances, and it is also likely, as we have mentioned in this particular report, to queer the pitch for the next budget to be prepared, because after all every new budget is being prepared in the light of the earlier budget, and long before it is known that any supplementary grants are needed or not the new budget has got to be prepared, and therefore to that extent plans for the new budget are being vitiated. So every care has to be taken to see that no unnecessary supplementary demands are made or brought forward before this House.

Thirdly, there is the case of the Supply Department being brought into existence without the knowledge of this House. It was kept in being for well over ten months and then alone the grant for its maintenance was brought forward before this House. That is a highly reprehensible method of financial control or laxity of control. We have had very strong things to say about this, and in future we know very well that the Government of India would have to start a number of new departments and new activities and therefore provide for their financing also. I hope that the Finance Minister would take care to see that whenever any new department is sought to be created, he would, as we have recommended here, come to this House at the time of the budget for a token grant, or after it is created at the earliest possible opportunity to this House with a demand for a token grant, and thus give an opportunity to this House to discuss the advisability or otherwise of the establishment of that new department.

There is also another point which is not mentioned here but which is germane to this discussion. Recently, we have heard that the Planning Department was abolished, but at the same time some sort of new panel of planning has been brought into existence with one of my own honoured colleagues as its chairman. Is it open to the government to abolish at any time it likes any department that it likes without giving some sort of notice to the concerned standing committee of that department, not to speak of waiting until this House itself is able to be in session and consulting it? I speak subject to correction—but I think that the standing committee for this department was not consulted before the Planning Department was abolished. This is a very important matter and I would like the Finance Minister to look into this. I would like him also on a later occasion if necessary, to enlighten this House as to the proper procedure to be followed by the Finance Department as well as the government in regard to the abolition of any one of the governmental departments and if he does so what is it that he proposes to do and how does he propose to deal with the funds that had already been allotted for the maintenance and continuance of that department until the next budget came in.

[Prof N G Ranga]

Then there are these smaller details ^{from} regarding the surrenders of surplus funds that could not be spent. We have taken a very strong line in this report that surrenders should be placed at the disposal of the Finance Department at the earliest possible moment and as soon as it becomes clear that there are going to be savings. The past practice has not been very happy.

Then there is a very peculiar thing, that the remarks sent by the Audit Department to the various spending departments are not replied to in proper time. For months, the Audit Department is obliged to wait for the remarks of those various departments before it is able to come to any sort of definite view about any one of the financial improprieties that have come to notice, and even then it is not able to come to the Public Accounts Committee and give them its final view. We had to say in this report that the Finance Department should fix the maximum period of three months within which every spending department should be prepared to send a reasoned reply to every relevant remark that the Audit Department makes and sends for its reply.

That brings me to the other point, that it is most necessary, now that this department is coming under the control of a responsible minister, that the Audit should be strengthened. During the war the audit had on many an occasion to complain that it was understaffed that it was not properly and adequately strengthened by the Finance Department. I hope at least from now on, no occasion will be given to audit to make any such complaints. The role that audit plays in regard to the public accounts of our country is of first-rate importance. I hesitate to say that it is second only to the Finance Department—I would like to place it even above the Finance Department. Anyhow they should be treated as equals and they should try and co-operate with each other. It is conventional of course for both of these great departments to say they are co-operating with each other. I have been on this Public Accounts Committee for nearly ten years—and I am here to say that I am not quite satisfied with the manner in which the Finance Department has lent its support to the Audit and I want Audit to be strengthened in future.

Lastly, I am not at all satisfied and I am sure the House also cannot be satisfied with seeing only the Finance Minister being an Indian and also a responsible gentleman. We want the whole of this department to be Indianised. Similarly we want the Audit Department also to be Indianised consistently with efficiency—but that need not be taken as a sort of proviso or condition, because there are plenty of Indians there as efficient as the English people, if not more efficient. It is wrong for any one to continue to think that only England is the repository of financial experts. Soviet Russia is a new and a young country and Soviet Russia has been able to give an excellent record of financial control and financial management. She did not send all her sons to England in order to be trained in the Bank of England or in Lombard Street or even Whitehall, and our people are supposed to have been trained in the last 150 years by these British financiers and I am sure we have got enough of financial experts in our own country who are competent enough to advise and assist and work as the colleagues of my honourable friend the Finance Minister. Similarly, Audit should be completely Indianised. With these remarks I commend this committee's report to this House and I hope that the Finance Minister will send relevant passages of the remarks of this committee's report to the various departments of the government and see that proper attention is paid to the suggestions that we have made in this report.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) I must pay a tribute to the persons, one of whom is Prof. Ranga, who drafted this report. He has gone through the various items carefully and has made suggestions in regard to budgeting, supplementary grants and various defects and irregularities which they have discovered in the matter of auditing. It is true we are now trying to discuss the report relating to the accounts of 1943-44 and my Honourable friend the Finance Member cannot be

accused of everything that happened at that time either in the matter of accounting or in the matter of spending the finances to the detriment of the interests of this country. I expect him to improve upon what his predecessors have done. Otherwise we would only be continuing the same old bureaucratic methods of ruling over this country. I do expect a change now, since we have a responsible Indian Minister in charge of our finances. He must have come forward with a definite statement to this House as to how far the recommendations that have been made in this committee have been carried out, what steps have been taken to remedy the defects. Possibly my Honourable friend had not much time and he expects to hear the observations that may be made upon this report by Honourable Members of this House before he takes adequate steps regarding the irregularities that have been pointed out.

This report consists of two or three parts. First there is general budgeting. The second, the Railways, third the Military, and so on. It is not intended to beat a dead horse. Our observations are intended to put the new Finance Member and his department on their guard to see that in future at least these irregularities are not perpetuated.

Let us now take the manner in which budgeting has been done. The original budget amount has been far exceeded, practically out of all proportion to the original budget. On page 1, in Part I, the Posts and Telegraphs and Defence Services are dealt with. The Committee observe that there was a total excess of 53.93 lakhs, or 11.01 per cent over the final grant. This is abnormal. It is pointed out that 'this served somewhat to reduce the percentage of variation from the final grant, which percentage nevertheless is higher than it has ever been in recent years'. The excuse of the department is that this is all due to the war period. Now, that the war is over, they must be very careful. We fear that even after the war the same kind of latitude might continue to be taken. I am trying to give a warning that proper steps ought to be taken to make the budget figures approximate to the needs of the particular year and no more grants, except under unforeseen circumstances, should be allowed and grants should not normally be in excess of the original demand.

Now, I come to budgetary control. Let us see how many supplementary grants were brought up during the year and whether these supplementaries could have been avoided. This is referred to in paragraph 4 on page 3 of the report. I shall only read a few relevant sentences.

"We commented last year on the deterioration in budgeting and control which the results of the year then under review had disclosed when compared to those of a normal year in times of peace. There are this year, for example, only 15 uncovered excesses in the voted section of the accounts compared to 19 in the previous year."

Though the number has gone down, the number of supplementary grants and the amounts involved which had reached record figures last year have been surpassed this year. I do not know who the Finance Member then was. He had only to complain of his predecessor. Now, the Finance Member will have to complain about two predecessors of his. Whatever might be the outward appearance the steel frame continues to do its work and I trust that the Honourable the Finance Member with his muscle and strength will give the steel frame a good shake at least. The time has come to modify all this.

It is also pointed out that in the year under review there were no less than seven unnecessary supplementary grants, 'a figure which has not been equalled for a very long time'. During the war they have wasted lot of money. This is one more reason why we must have full independence at the earliest possible moment. We can ill afford to wait any longer.

I shall now take up the supplementary demands. I will not tire the House with figures at the far end of the day. The Committee say—

"We had occasion to comment last year on the very large number of supplementary demands which the Legislature was called upon to vote and of the magnitude of the total sum involved. The figures for 1942-43 (excluding the Posts and Telegraphs estimates) were 46 supplementary demands for a total sum of Rs. 13,23,95,000, which was 52 per cent of the original voted grant."

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

Now, let us see what happened in the year under review, 1948-49. 'The comparable figures for the year under review are 53 supplementary demands totalling Rs. 21,51,48,000 representing a percentage of no less than 62.29 of the original grant.' Supplementary grants were to the tune of 62 per cent where in the previous year it was 52 per cent. This is a scandal of the first magnitude. I am sorry that the persons who were responsible for this are not here. Otherwise they would have to answer for all this in detail.

I shall now take up the suspense balances. It is referred to in paragraph 9 of this report. The Committee say on page 5

"We sounded a note of warning last year against the danger of allowing suspense balances to grow unwieldy. We were informed then that there were considerable sums of money standing to the debit of Suspense because it had not been found possible satisfactorily to separate and allocate the individual items of which they were composed to the various Governments, and so on."

My fear is that in spite of the warning of the Committee that the defects ought to be remedied, this tendency was not properly checked. I am afraid proper attention was not paid to this aspect in spite of the warning of the Committee. That is the reason why I am trying to lay emphasis on the fact that proper control should be exercised. The Committee also say "We also desire the Finance Department to circularise other departments impressing upon them the urgency of clearing these debts. I would ask the Honourable Member to make a statement in his concluding speech what action has been taken and whether the other authorities have been circularised regarding the suspense balances in their hands, also whether they have been reduced, if so, to what extent? He would do well to give figures for the several years from 1942-43 right up to the present day if such figures are available."

Then, as regards the new services, I know of a convention. When a new service, which was not contemplated at the time of introducing the budget, is started, it has been the practice to place it before the Standing Finance Committee and obtain its approval. Then a token sum is placed before the Assembly. Thought that convention has been there, it was not followed. Therefore, the members of the Committee have rightly observed in paragraph 10 that such sanction was not obtained from the Assembly. There is also no reference there why a similar sanction was not obtained at least from the Standing Finance Committee. I would urge that the Standing Finance Committee ought not to be lightly thrown away in all matters in which the grant was not sanctioned at the time when the budget was presented to the Assembly. The previous Finance Members might have looked askance at this and might not have looked at it with affection and goodwill, but I do hope that the present Finance Member will find the advice of the Standing Finance Committee very valuable and call for its aid as often as possible when he is unable to place these matters for the acceptance of the House generally.

Now, Sir, I come to the Railway Department. I have been a member of the Standing Committee for Railways for some years. So far as the budget control is concerned, I have to congratulate the Railway Department for a better method of budgetary control which they have brought to bear in the initial stages of the expenditure. The Committee has rightly paid a tribute to that Department for taking greater care than the general Finance Department. But they have been equally bad if not worse than the general Finance Department in the matter of coming up to the Assembly for supplementary grants. They have no doubt not deteriorated but they have not improved either. So far as the Railways are concerned, one could not accuse them of such a bad behaviour so far as supplementary grants go but they must have shown better improvement than the others. Sir, I would like to have some elucidation on this point from the Honourable the Finance Member or his colleague the Financial Commissioner for Railways. It was suggested in this report that from one major head to another major head sums ought not to be shifted when it was found that the under one major head was insufficient for meeting the demands. There-

fore, it was suggested that working expenses might as well be put under one head. I know and I do remember that the Honourable Financial Commissioner for Railways brought in before the Standing Finance Committee a proposal to re-align the heads and he brought various other heads under the working expenses. I believe it was in pursuance of this recommendation that he wanted to re-adjust the budget and tried to correct the budgetary provision in accordance with this recommendation. I would like to know from him in greater detail whether he has tried to carry out the proposal which we explained in the Standing Finance Committee and the recommendations that have been made in the report of the Public Accounts Committee. All the same, I was not satisfied then and I am much less satisfied now that they are dealing with funds that we voted on black properly. Though from one general head to another general head they may not transfer all the working expenses of all the railways, various Departments have been clubbed together under one "Working Expenses". Even now it is open to them to transfer from one sub-head to another sub-head of the same major head, which may be absolutely inconsistent. That is possible even under this re-alignment. Therefore, it is good that a Joint Committee should meet together to look into this matter and suggest ways and means to avoid the possibility of these people transferring from one sub-head to another sub-head that which is absolutely of an inconsistent and conflicting nature.

Then Sir, there is one other matter on which the Committee has reported and quite properly. That is the correlation of budgeting with regard to the various systems of the railway administration. For instance, one railway incurs an expenditure and then pays it to some other railway. This finds a place only in the accounts of the railway which pays but it does not find place in the accounts of the railway which receives it. I do not know how it has not attracted the attention of the persons concerned because we gave a note for the Public Accounts Committee to make this remark. They say on page 9

"We should like the Railway Department to investigate this matter and to adopt the procedure suggested if found feasible."

In the beginning of paragraph 20 they say

"We have come across in our examination of the Railway accounts several instances which lead us to the conclusion that there is insufficient correlation in budgeting between the different railway administrations. We understand that a system is already in force whereby one railway does not debit or credit itself till the other railway has accepted the corresponding credit or debit thus ensuring correlation in the accounts of the two railways. We see *prima facie* no reason why some similar arrangement should not be adopted at the stage of making budget estimates so that a railway would not make any entry in its estimates relating to payments to or receipts from any other railway till the other railway had agreed to make a corresponding reverse entry in its own estimates."

I would like to have an answer from the Honourable the Railway Commissioner whether steps have been taken to remedy such defects and correlation is ensured in the matter of budgeting.

Lastly, Sir, I come to para 22 of the report, where they make certain observations with regard to financial irregularities. They found certain gross financial irregularities in the matter of accounting and for which they recommended very serious punishment with respect to the officers. I would like to have a tabular statement of the serious financial irregularities that have been discovered and for which action has been taken. I would like to read one or two lines regarding their report on this matter.

"We should like the Railway Department to give very much more attention than they seem hitherto to have given to this aspect of the matter and we would welcome a report as to the action in this respect which they may find it possible to take."

It is open to the Honourable Members of this House to accept the report from the Department as to how far they have implemented this recommendation, what action they have taken in regard to the financial irregularities they have discovered, and also in regard to the financial irregularities that the Department itself may, in the light of the observations made by the members of the Standing Finance Committee, discover in addition to those irregularities already discovered.

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

The report has been written very well and gives a clear view of the various irregularities that they have discovered and we need not go away with the impression that the whole thing is very bad. However, there are a number of loopholes that have to be plucked and some report has to be laid before the Assembly as to how far action has been taken on the report of this Committee.

I will conclude with the observations that, irrespective of what might have been done this year, it is his duty not to save his time but to put more facts before the Assembly to enable the Honourable Members to know what action has been taken by the Government. He should not be laconic in an Assembly where he has got to open his mouth more often and we also want to listen to his beautiful voice.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions, Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I have no wish to prolong the debate. My task is rendered easier because of the new Government that is functioning in this House. The report which we have to take into consideration now points out a number of

4 PM things which deserve attention. But I have no doubt that the new Finance Member whom we have the good fortune to welcome, will himself look into all that and I need not therefore go into those details. It is lucky that we have the new Finance Member. I need not bother about the political tubthumping which many of us may have to do outside. I am not concerned with that now. That does not matter now. But those of us who have had the privilege of having known the Finance Member in another legislature, in the U.P., are well aware of the high ability and patriotism he possesses and with all that knowledge of him, I have no doubt that the entire administration of the Finance Department will hereafter change, not only because of the general change on account of the new government that has come in but also because of the personal ability and determination which he will bring to bear upon his work. I will not therefore go into details of the report. The purpose for which I have stood up is just one little suggestion which I want to make and that is that now that we have one of our own men sitting here at the head of the Finance department, which department my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga rightly characterised as the watch-dog of the whole government in a sense, I hope the Finance Member will make the watch-dog of his watch-dog department, namely the Public Accounts committee, more powerful and more effective than it has been hitherto. In England, Sir, if I am not mistaken, they have a non-official Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. The only purpose why I am taking up the time of the House is to make the suggestion to the Finance Member for his consideration to see whether the time has not now come when we should introduce that practice here also and have a non-official chairman for the Public Accounts Committee. The Honourable Finance Member's hands will be full of important and urgent matters, he will have more to do than any human being can wish for. I have no doubt that he will find in a non-official chairman one who will co-operate with him, one who will compliment his work to such an extent as may be needed and as may be desired. He will find that a committee presided over by a non-official chairman will lend him greater strength and will lead to better efficiency of administration than before. There are other countries also where this practice prevails. I will not take up the time of the House in dilating upon this point, and I hope he will consider this useful suggestion and he will be able to adopt it at as early a date as he might find it possible. I support the consideration of the report.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member). Sir, it is indeed very gratifying that the House felt so much satisfied with my silence and I am sure that it will be more satisfied with my speech. Sir, my Honourable friends Prof. Ranga and Pandit Govind Malaviya have been good enough to say very kind things about me. My endeavour would be to come up to their expectations. Now, Sir, Prof. Ranga wanted to know what action had been taken,

and I think my Honourable friend Mr Ayyangar also desired to know what action had been taken on the report of the Public Accounts Committee. This is a document which is quite bulky and I would have been only too glad to read out all the items of action that the departments have taken on the report. This was placed before the Public Accounts Committee in September and it will come up before the House when the next report of the Public Accounts Committee comes up for discussion, because the action taken by the department on all outstanding points not covered by an earlier report will form part of the next report with regard to the accounts of 1944-45. My Honourable friend Prof Ranga said that he desired that instructions should be issued giving a maximum period of three months for replies to audit comments. We have done better than that. We have issued instructions giving them only six weeks. All the departments have been circalaised that if their remarks are not received within that time, then the comments which are sent to the departments will be taken to be correct.

Now, Sir, there is another point which was raised by Prof Ranga with regard to the creation of new departments and that the vote of the House should be taken before a new department is started. I am glad to inform him that it has been decided that the vote of the House should be taken at the earliest opportunity. I shall be coming up before the House in this connection with regard to the Works, Mines and Powers Department which is technically a new Department. With regard to his second suggestion that in case we decided to abolish certain departments, even then the vote of the House should be taken, I am not quite sure about that. But anyhow that is a matter that I shall examine, but I may say that it does not seem to me that there is such a strong case in favour of this proposition as there is in favour of the proposition that when a new department is started the vote of the House should be taken. Then, Sir, with regard to budgeting, unfortunately our budgeting has not been as close as we could wish. I think the House would realise that it is due entirely to conditions that have been prevailing on account of war during the last few years and I am hopeful that as conditions return to normal our budgeting also will be more real. With regard to budgetary control, I may tell Honourable Members that the deterioration is again a war time phenomena and I admit, that in spite of the fact that all departments had done their best, that best has not been quite adequate. I hope that in future we will be able to exercise greater control with regard to this matter. There is, I think, Sir, only one other point that has been raised by my friend Mr H. P. Prasad. He has suggested that as is the practice in England, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee should be a non-official. I will certainly examine this proposal. It is my earnest desire that as long as I am in charge of this department of Government I should carry with me the non-officials of this House and it will always be my earnest effort to seek their advice and assistance on any matter which comes up before me. Even if I am not able for some reason or other to place any particular proposal before the House as a whole I shall always try to get, if not officially at least informally, the views of the representatives of the various parties in this House. As a matter of fact in this connection I may say that it was I think, Mr Ayyangar, who suggested that the Committee that was appointed with regard to the Bretton Woods proposals may be continued or some other committee may be appointed to be consulted from time to time. Two days ago I promised that I would consider this matter. I am glad to tell my Honourable friend and other Honourable Members, and specially the members of the Committee, that if they would be so good as to assist me from time to time I shall be happy to avail of their assistance.

Sir, I do not think there is really any other point on which I need say anything in particular. I recognise the importance of the Public Accounts Committee, it does play a very important and a very useful role in the management of the finances of Government, and I do hope that the Public Accounts Committee of this House will in future be even more vigilant than it has been in the past.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS FOR 1943-44

Civil

DEMAND No 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 23,961 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Central Excise Duties' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 23,961 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Central Excise Duties' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 15,607 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Finance Department' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 15,607 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Finance Department' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 3,362 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Commerce Department' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 3,362 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Commerce Department' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 27—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 2,459 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 2,459 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 66,292 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Administration of Justice' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 66,292 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Administration of Justice' "

The motion was adopted

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS FOR 1943-44

DEMAND No 32—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 11,568 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 11,568 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 34—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 57,477 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 57,477 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage' "

The motion was adopted

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Kh. Mohamud Yamin Khan)]

DEMAND No 35—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That an excess grant of Rs 5,969 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships' "

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 5,969 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 37—BOTANICAL SURVEY

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That an excess grant of Rs 4,768 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Botanical Survey' "

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 4,768 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Botanical Survey' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 42—METEOROLOGY

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That an excess grant of Rs 41,874 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Meteorology' "

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 41,874 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Meteorology' "

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No 58 —EMIGRATION—INTERNAL

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That an excess grant of Rs 114 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Emigration—Internal' "

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved

"That an excess grant of Rs 114 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Emigration—Internal' "

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I protest against this. Any one of the Government officers in charge of this Department drawing thousands of rupees every month could have put this small sum of Rs 114 from his pocket and saved the House this waste of time.

Mr. Deputy President: Would the Honourable Member like to reply?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: That will be wasting more time of the House.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 114 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Emigration—Internal' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 61 —CENSUS

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That an excess grant of Rs 205 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Census' "

Mr. Deputy President: The question is—

"That an excess grant of Rs 205 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Census' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 10 —INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That an excess grant of Rs 22,50,786 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' "

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved

"That an excess grant of Rs 22,50,786 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' "

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I oppose this. The Honourable Members will see in the Report under Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department that 22 lakhs have been spent from the revenue account in excess of the grant. Under the capital account item No 78 Indian Posts and Telegraphs—83 lakhs have been spent in the same year. In all 83 *plus* 22, it comes to 105 lakhs. More than one crore has been spent in excess of the original grant. We find in the Public Accounts Committee Report that this was spent on about 76 major works not one of which was placed before the Assembly even though some of them had already been executed or were in the course of construction at the time of the Budget Session. They were neither placed before the Standing Finance Committee. I want to oppose and throw this out and see what will happen. I am anxious to know what will happen to more than one crore of rupees which has already been spent. It is a farce. Out of this one crore and lakhs, at least a hundred or one thousand rupees must be collected as punishment by way of fines from those persons in charge of the department who were responsible for this excess.

I will only read one or two items from page 42 of the Public Accounts Committee's Report

"28 of these works had cost under Rs 1,000, while only eight had cost more than Rs 20,000 each. The Committee enquired why the modified appropriation for the workshop building at Jubbulpore was Rs 15,00,800 when the original appropriation was only 2,45,700. It was explained that the project had undergone a series of changes since it was first conceived. Budget provision had been made according to the original plan which was to acquire and construct buildings in order to house certain workshop machinery from Calcutta."

I see that many such irregularities have been done. I therefore oppose this motion for passing 22 lakhs whatever might be the consequences.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaonkar (Government of India Nominated Official) The consequences will be that the excess will remain unauthorized, and the Auditor General will go on raising objections.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Officers will be surcharged.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) And what will be the legal position of those buildings?

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Mr Deputy President This raises an important issue. That someone had bungled at some place either in under-estimating or spending without authority either of the House or of the Standing Committee or of both is clear. Even if we throw out this demand we cannot mend the matter. I only want to urge on the attention of the new Finance Member that this clearly establishes a case in which he ought to be a watchdog of the country's finances in the real sense of the word, and if he can assure us that such performances, although they cannot be avoided entirely, will be few hereafter, personally I shall be satisfied.

Sir Harold Shobert (Secretary, Communications Department) I am afraid that my Honourable friend, Mr Ayyangar, is under some slight misapprehension, and I hope very much that I shall be able to satisfy the House that the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department in 1941-42 was not undertaking a lot of ill-conceived and unsanctioned expenditure. Actually he has referred to two excesses. The first is an excess of Rs 22,50,786. That excess is made up of a great number of small items and although it may not be entirely clear from the Public Accounts Committee Report, they have no particular relation to these 73 Major Works which were undertaken without specific provision. I must recall to Honourable Members that during the period of the war, the Indian Posts & Telegraphs Department went through a period of very heavy expansion. Traffic increased on all sides to an unprecedented degree. There were troops coming in from the United Kingdom, later on from America—and all sorts of capital goods were coming into India which increased the amount of work which our people had to do and we could not foresee at the budget time what that expansion was going to be. But above all, Honourable Members will remember that the Posts & Telegraphs Department undertook a Rs 16 crores Tele-Communication Development Scheme. As a matter of fact, when this scheme was conceived towards the end of 1942, it was only to have been a Rs 8 crores scheme. Gradually it increased to Rs 16 crores. But when this scheme was in the beginning, framed to increase tele-communications in this land, chiefly for the war department and for strategic purposes, it was most difficult to foresee how far it was going. The result of that was that, at the time with which this excess is concerned, we had gone ahead very much and the excesses spoken of resulted—I can give you a few details of their nature. One of them was an excess of Rs 30 lakhs for pay of establishment. Another was an excess of 8 lakhs on pay of officers. Another was an excess of Rs 6,28,000 on movement of stores. I may state that at this time we were sending stores to Iraq, later on to Burma, to the Middle East and all over the place, and that it meant that we had to move a great many stores, without very much warning, all over India. Actually this first excess

[Sir Harold Shoober] which my friend, Mr Ayyangar, has criticized, the excess of Rs. 22,50,000, is made up of these and a few other items and not specifically concerned with those 73 major works. All of them were concerned with the war, and had to be taken up at short notice and it was not possible to get the previous approval of the Standing Committee. For the Rs 16 crores scheme, as the Honourable Members of this House are aware, we did at every stage get the necessary approval.

The Honourable the Finance Member has not yet come to the item of Rs 83,13,633.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You must dispose of them together!

Sir Harold Shoober: I think, Sir, I may be allowed to speak on this item under expenditure charged to capital,—an excess of Rs 83,13,633. I must explain that that is really due to arrangements between the Supply Department and the Posts and Telegraphs Department. In the year with which these accounts deal the Supply Department adopted a procedure by which materials and supplies, which were 100 per cent approved and which had already been despatched, were paid for. Well, the result was that Rs 24 lakhs advance payment was made by the Supply Department in the financial year for supplies which the Posts & Telegraphs Department did not receive for their works until the next year. We had not wanted them in this particular year, but we had to pay for them. They came in for work in the following financial year.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Could it not be paid from the Suspense Account?

Sir Harold Shoober: I think this is a Suspense Account. Anyhow we were billed for them. I am afraid I cannot give my friend, Prof Ranga, a direct reply. But I can assure him that it was all above board. The other item, of which this is partially made up—in fact the totals are more than made up—is an unanticipated receipt of stores amounting to Rs 80 lakhs. Those stores were also wanted for works to be done in the following financial year, but they were received by the Posts & Telegraphs Department in the year under consideration. I may add, Sir, for the information of Honourable Members that with the few remarks recorded by the Public Accounts Committee in their report they recommended that these excesses should be sanctioned and we have.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member what they could do otherwise?

Sri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural): All excesses are condoned!

Sir Harold Shoober: One of the Honourable Members suggested that the officers of the Department might have met it from their very fat salaries. We might have had some sort of levy! With regard to the remarks of the Public Accounts Committee on these matters, I can assure the House that the Department is doing its best to satisfy the members. I hope that what I have said will satisfy our honourable friends that there has not been any prodigal or ill conceived spending in a department which during the war had to bear a very heavy burden indeed.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan): The Honourable Member has spoken about other things but he did not give any reply to the objection raised by my honourable friend, Mr Ayyangar about the huge sum spent in constructing certain buildings in Jubbulpore. As far as I am aware, because I belong to Jubbulpore, these buildings were constructed for shifting certain Telegraph & Postal Departments which were actually situated in Calcutta, and from the findings—at least from what the Jubbulpore people say—there was no need for shifting those Departments to Jubbulpore. Though I belong to Jubbulpore, and this huge department has been brought there, yet I feel that the poor taxpayer's money should not be

spent in this way and the Government should not shift one department from one place to another without adequate reasons. This has been a hobby of the Government which was in power up till now. Without any adequate reasons they used to shift one department from one place to another and spend huge sums on such projects. The same thing was done when the capital was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi. I shall give another example of Jubbulpore. That happened in 1908. There were three factories situated in Presidency towns for making gun carriages, one in Calcutta, one in Bombay and the third in Madras. Now these three factories were shifted from these three presidency towns to Jubbulpore without any reason.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Good target there!

Seth Govind Das: and a good deal of criticism was made in this respect. My Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar has rightly pointed out that this huge sum of 15 lakhs was spent in constructing these buildings in Jubbulpore. There was no necessity to shift those departments from Calcutta to Jubbulpore. These demands have come to us today and we do not want to oppose them. We want only to bring this fact to the notice of the Government that the previous government have always been in the habit of shifting departments from one place to another without any adequate reason and this new Government ought to see that the money of the poor taxpayers is not spent in the way it has been done so far.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Was not there danger of bombing in Calcutta at that time?

Sir Harold Shoober: With your permission, Sir, as it has been stated that I have not dealt with this point which my friend has just now raised, I would like to give a reply to that.

Mr. Deputy President: As a special case I allow it.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It is only on a point of explanation that the Honourable Member desires to speak.

Sir Harold Shoober: The Honourable Member has accused me of omitting to mention the Jubbulpore works. I must crave the indulgence of Honourable Members for not having specifically mentioned that but it really came within the scope of the 16 crores scheme. This workshop was established in Jubbulpore not for the purpose of inconveniencing men who were working in Calcutta nor for the purpose of transferring any general work which was already going on in Calcutta. The position was, as Honourable Members will recall, that about that time India was threatened with invasion from Japan. Calcutta was an exposed area. The Posts and Telegraphs workshops and the work required from them was expanding at an enormous rate and there was no room for what we had to do in Calcutta. There was no safety for what had to be done in Calcutta. The result was that part of the Calcutta workshops was transferred to Jubbulpore. As the Tele-Communication Development scheme went on it became necessary to expand not only Calcutta on its own site to such an extent that there was no room for any more work to be done there but also to expand Jubbulpore to an enormous extent and I may state for the information of Honourable Members that next week when our Standing Advisory Committee is to meet, the question as to the future of our 3 telegraph and telephone workshops at Calcutta, Jubbulpore and Bombay is being taken up for consideration. It was not in any idle way that the workshop was opened in Jubbulpore because the other workshop continued.

Mr. Deputy President: The Question is

"That an excess grant of Rs. 22,50,786 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

The motion was adopted.

Railways**DEMAND No 5—PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES**

The Honourable Mr Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That an excess grant of Rs 12,92,217 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved

"That an excess grant of Rs 12,92,217 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga, Sn. I wish to draw your attention to a very technical matter. You will find that this is the first of a number of Excess Grants which my Honourable friend the Finance Minister has got to ask this House to give its vote to. Most of these excesses have arisen as a result of the policy of the Government in its Railway Department to come to a settlement in regard to two practices that obtain there. They are referred to on page 9, paragraph 19. There was a convention by which the Railway Board is allowed to authorise expenditure in excess of what is voted by the Legislature in one particular grant in the hope that it will be met by savings elsewhere within the same grant. There was another convention by which the Railways are authorised to exceed the budget allotments in one grant if they expected savings in another.

The Public Accounts Committee said

"This latter arrangement is however tantamount to reappropriation being allowed between eight different grants and we regard this as most unsatisfactory."

Therefore the Committee suggested that

"Instead of adopting this subterfuge which has been necessitated by the peculiar conditions of the Railways but which is quite contrary to all canons of budgeting and financial control, it might be better to revert to the system of having one grant for Working Expenses in a whole of which the excess grant could be subvented, between which reappropriations would be allowed in the normal course. We should like the Railway Department to re-examine this matter in detail in consultation with the Auditor General and present a report to the Committee. Till the matter is settled the present arrangements should continue."

I would like to know at what stage the whole matter rests. It seems necessary that some agreement should be reached in regard to this particular matter in order to avoid this very large number of excess expenditure that the railways are obliged to indulge in. Unfortunately it so happens that the Railways and the Posts and Telegraphs have had to resort to this method in order to meet several unforeseen expenditures under various items. That is why those two conventions were reached, one independent of the other, almost one overlapping the other and there is a certain amount of conflict in the way in which these two conventions could be worked. Therefore it has become necessary for the Public Accounts Committee to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of harmonising these two conventions, so that the financial practices of the Railways as well as the Posts and Telegraphs Department could be placed on a sounder footing. I dare say that the Government have already paid attention to this particular recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee and I would like to know what they have done or propose to do.

Mr. I. S. Puri (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, the second convention to which Professor Ranga has referred (and this was objected to by the Public Accounts Committee which examined the accounts of 1943-44) related to the setting off of excesses under one grant against savings under another. This practice is, strictly speaking, irregular; it is not permitted by the legislature rules. But when the present arrangement of grants was decided upon, it was agreed by the then Public Accounts Committee that in order not to place undue restrictions on the powers of General Managers, a convention might be adopted under which a General Manager, if he had savings under

one grant, could set off that against excesses under another, but that this would not do away with the necessity of a vote by the Assembly. This procedure was objected to last year by the Public Accounts Committee, and they recommended that the whole position should be re-examined in consultation with the Auditor General. This has been done, and proposals for a rearrangement of demands for grants—which arrangement it is claimed is more logical and more scientific than the existing arrangement—and a memorandum was placed before the Standing Finance Committee after obtaining the concurrence of the Auditor General to the re-arrangement. The Standing Finance Committee approved of the revision of the arrangement of demands for grants, and last month the matter came up before the Public Accounts Committee and that committee approved of that arrangement. Now when the budget for 1947-48 will be placed before this House next February, the budget will be according to the new demands for grants. That is the position.

As regards the other points—the other convention to which Prof Ranga has referred, the position is this when, after the 1921 convention resolution, the Standing Finance Committee examined the question of the demands into which working expenses for railways should be divided, it was made clear at that time too that railway budgeting was on a somewhat different footing from other departments budgeting. Strictly speaking, reappropriation requires two orders: actual additional allotment to one authority, and a corresponding withdrawal from another spending department. But the question has been considered several times in the Public Accounts Committee and it has been accepted that it is not always possible for the Railway Board to locate a saving. While on a general consideration of the progress of expenditure they may say that a certain excess on a railway would be covered by a saving on some other railway, it is not always possible to say on which railway and under which detailed head of the grant the saving would occur, and therefore it was held that the Railway Board might be allowed in such cases to authorise a particular railway to incur expenditure in the hope that at the end of the year there would be savings somewhere from which to meet those excesses and that in the Public Accounts Committee the Railway Board representative would be prepared to defend their actions and that convention remains.

I would like to point out in this connection now about the other point which Prof Ranga raised, that it is these conventions that have led to these excesses over the final grants. I submit that those conventions have nothing to do with these excesses. These excesses would have taken place in any case. The reasons for these excesses are these. In the first place, after the revised budget had been prepared and the supplementary demand for 1943-44 had been voted by the Assembly, orders were issued which took effect from the 1st of March 1944 revising the dearness allowance rules and extending the dearness allowance concessions to a larger body of railway staff. This must inevitably cause an excess over the revised estimate because at the time that the revised estimate prepared these orders had not been issued and had not been allowed for in working out the sums which the Assembly was asked to vote on. That is one point.

The other thing is this. It has been recognised all along that the railway estimates are different in some respects from the estimates of other ordinary spending departments. Railway estimates of expenses are at best an indication of the expenditure that will be necessary in order to carry a certain amount of traffic. Nobody will, I dare say, suggest that if a General Manager has to carry more traffic than he estimated for in his estimates of revenue and working expenses, he should refuse to carry that traffic, because he has not got money either under coal or under operating staff or something else. Our estimate therefore is only an indication of how much money we shall spend in order to carry a certain amount of traffic. During the war years the traffic estimates have been exceedingly difficult and this is because of the unpredictability of the course of the war. Military traffic, for example, rose

[Mr. I. S. Puri]

very steeply and we had to carry that traffic, with the result that expenditure actually exceeded the estimates that we had prepared in February. That is the real reason. The income was larger and therefore the expenditure also had to be larger, and one of the excesses—revenue appropriation to reserve—is only a consequential adjustment, because the earnings were more and the surplus was more and therefore there was a large reappropriation to reserve.

As regards the general question of control, this question was also raised by the Standing Finance Committee particularly by my friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, when last June we had a meeting to consider the question of the second all India railway strike, and then the opinion was expressed by the committee that there was need for taking active steps to tighten up the machinery for financial control of railway expenditure, both at headquarters and on the railways. This recommendation was accepted by the Government, and now certain steps are under very active consideration as to how that machinery for financial control should be tightened. In due course the matter will come before the Railway Standing Finance Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Public Accounts Committee also be consulted on it?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask one or two questions? The Honourable Member spoke about the traffic of American troops. May I know whether this was under the lend-lease arrangement or whether the railway actually received the money for that traffic from somebody? Will he also say why no adjustment was made either from the Standing Finance Committee or in the Assembly during the last two years? At least the matter ought to have been brought to the notice of the Standing Finance Committee, if not of the legislature.

The next point is that these demands under these various items amount to some Rs. 80 lakhs odd. I want to know whether there has been a saving in some other departments in order to meet this additional demand.

Mr. I. S. Puri: Sir, I was talking of the military traffic, not of the American military traffic. In any case whatever the arrangements may have been between the War Department and the Government of India and the U. S. A. Government, so far as the Railway Department is concerned, they got their full freight, according to the rates and so, the question of bringing the loss to the notice of this House or the Standing Finance Committee did not arise.

As regards the third question of Dr. Zia Uddin, the point is that there was no question of corresponding savings. These are all working expenses, because the traffic exceeded our anticipations. Therefore the working expenses exceeded also. He will notice that these working expenses have gone up under most of the items under which the working expenses are shown and there is no corresponding saving in working expenses. There is more than a corresponding increase in revenue which covered these expenses.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs. 12,92,217 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday the 1st November 1946.

APPENDIX I

(Vide page 320 ante)

COPY OF THE NOTIFICATION No 10 M(A)/7 46, DATED THE 16TH APRIL, 1946

No 10 M(4)/7 46—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act 1934 (XXII of 1934), the Central Government is pleased to direct that, with effect from the 15th May, 1946, the following further amendment shall be made in the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, namely —

For Section B of Schedule V to the said Rules, the following Section shall be substituted, namely —

*"Section B—Tariff of landing and housing charges at Government Aerodromes
(See rule 82)*

1 The charges for landing and housing of aircraft, other than airships, at Government aerodromes shall be as follows —

Type of Aircraft Class	Total Weight	Landing charges for single landing	Housing charges (excluding landing charges)		
			Up to 24 Hrs	Monthly rate	Quarterly rate
		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
A	Up to 2,500 lbs	1	2	40	80
B	2501—7,500 lbs	5	10	200	400
C	7501 - 15,000 lbs	10	25	500	1,000
D	15,001—25,000 lbs	25	40	900	1,500
E	25,001—50,000 lbs	50	60	1,200	2,400
F	50,001—1,00,000 lbs	150	100	2,000	4,000
G	1,00,001—2,00,000 lbs.	300	200	4,000	8,000
H	Above 2,00 000 lbs.	750	300	6,000	12,000

2 For purposes of assessing landing and/or housing charges, the total weight of an aircraft shall be the maximum permissible weight as specified under the regulations of the State in which the aircraft is registered

3 The payment of the landing charge shall entitle aircraft to (i) the use of the aerodrome for alighting and departure, (ii) the use of radio and night lighting installations at the aerodrome, (iii) the supply of all available information as to routes and weather conditions, and (iv) the services of the aerodrome personnel, if available, for manual assistance in guiding, housing or picketting the aircraft

4 Any flight during the hours of daylight of which prior notice is given to the Aerodrome Officer and which is undertaken solely for the purpose of ascertaining the serviceability in the air of the aircraft and its equipment, shall be deemed to be a test flight and shall be exempt from the levy of a landing charge

5 When an aerodrome is used during the hours of daylight for repeated landings a daily charge equivalent to five times the charge for a single landing for the class of aircraft concerned shall be levied in respect of each aircraft

6 50 per cent of the standard housing charges at daily monthly or quarterly rates shall be charged for aircraft parked in the open. The daily parking charge will be levied for any period exceeding 12 hours, upto 24 hours and thereafter for complete periods of 24 hours

7 The charges will be due for payment at the times stated below

(i) Landing charges

At the time of using the aerodrome, or, in the case of approved regular user, on demand at the end of each calendar month in respect of charges accruing in the month.

(ii) Charges for housing or parking at daily rates

Ditto

(iii) Charges for housing or parking at monthly or quarterly rates

In advance, at the beginning of the month or quarter. If not so paid, charges will be recovered at daily rates

8 When housing space which has been paid for in advance is not used, the space may be used for the housing of other aircraft and no refund shall be made to the lessee unless he is prevented by the housing of other aircraft from obtaining accommodation for his aircraft

9 No housing charge shall be levied in respect of an aircraft housed in a Government hangar for the purpose of inspection by a Government Aircraft Inspector during the period certified as necessary for the inspection by the Aircraft Inspector, including such period not exceeding 3 days after the conclusion of the actual inspection as may be necessary for its assembly consequent on the inspection

G V BEWOOR,

Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 17th August 1946

No 11-M (4)/146-III—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934 (XXII of 1934), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, namely—

I In the said Rules,—

(A) sub-rule (5) of rule 135 shall be renumbered as sub-rule (6), and before sub-rule (6), as so renumbered, the following sub-rule shall be inserted, namely—

“(5) The Central Government may by general or special order appoint—

(i) an officer of the Civil Aviation Directorate to perform the duties of the Deputy Chairman, and

(ii) a deputy to each Member to perform the duties of that Member, at any meeting of the Board which the Deputy Chairman or that Member is unable to attend”

(b) after rule 135 the following rules shall be inserted namely—

“135A *Officers of the Board*—(1) The Central Government may appoint a Secretary and so many and such other officers as shall be found necessary for the due discharge of all powers and authorities conferred on the Board

(2) During the temporary absence of the Secretary, the Board may require any officer of the Board or of the Civil Aviation Directorate to act as Secretary for the time being and perform all such functions as are assigned to him

135B *Seat of the Board*—The Board shall sit at New Delhi or at such other places as the Chairman may, with the approval of the Central Government, appoint

135C *Procedure of the Board*—(1) The Board may meet for the dispatch of business, sit in public or in private, adjourn, direct generally or from time to time the manner in which any notice required to be issued under these rules shall be served, and otherwise regulate its proceedings and business as it may think fit

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1), the Board may—

(a) make standing orders for the regulation of its business and vary or revoke any such order,

(b) delegate to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Member, Secretary, or other officer of the Board or any special examiner appointed by the Board any of its functions other than those under rules 136, 139, 141, 144, 145, 146, 148 and 151 and such of its functions as are in the opinion of the Board in the nature of preliminary investigation or action, including the taking down of evidence, inspection of documents and local inspection;

(c) admit in evidence any report made by the person to whom powers are delegated as aforesaid and generally admit or reject in its discretion any evidence oral or documentary which may be tendered before it.

135D *Quorum*—The quorum for any meeting of the Board shall be three of whom one shall be the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman.

135E *Decision by majority and casting vote*—Questions arising at any meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority of votes, and in case of an equality of votes the Chairman or if he be absent the Deputy Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

135F *Seal of the Board*—(1) The Board shall have and use as required a seal and the seal shall be delivered to and kept in the custody of the Secretary.

(2) All licences and final orders of the Board shall be expressed to be made by the Air Transport Licensing Board, shall be sealed with the seal of the Board signed by the Secretary and countersigned by the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman and when so sealed and signed shall be conclusive evidence that the licence was duly granted on the order duly made.

(3) All notices, advertisements and other documents may be signed by the Secretary.

(c) In subrule (2) of rule 136 after the words "cause to be inspected" insert "by the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman or any one or more members of the Board or any other person authorized by the Board in that behalf."

II In Schedule VI to the said Rules—

(i) after entry 18 the following entry shall be inserted in the first and second column and included within the third bracket in the third column, namely—

'18A for *Transport Service* Contravention of the rule relating to licensing of an air transport service
134'

(b) in entry 22 for the words "in the foregoing items" the words "elsewhere in this Schedule" shall be substituted.

(c) after entry 22 the following entries shall be inserted and bracketed together in the third column—

23	Contravention of the rules relating to the cost production and surrender of licences	152	} fine not exceeding Rs 1000
24	Contravention of the rules relating to submission of periodical returns and particulars of information	155	

W H SHOOBIRT Secy

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
NOTIFICATION

Dated New Delhi, the 18th September 1946

No 10 M(1)/2646 I.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act 1934 (XXII of 1934) the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Indian Aircraft Rules 1937, namely—

In the said Rules, for rule 33 the following rule shall be substituted, namely—

'33 *Change in ownership*—In the event of any change in the ownership of a registered aircraft or if a registered aircraft ceases to be owned wholly either by persons or by a company or corporation fulfilling the conditions set out in rule 30 then—

(1) the registered owner of the aircraft shall forthwith notify the Director General of Civil Aviation in India of such change of ownership or in the case may be that the aircraft has ceased to be so owned as aforesaid; and

(2) the registration and the certificate thereof shall lapse as from the date of such change of ownership, or the date on which the aircraft ceased to be so owned.'

M H ZUBERI

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

- Copy forwarded to the
1 Director General of Civil Aviation in India
2 War Department
3 Home Department
4 Political Department (15 &c)
5 External Affairs Department

with reference to the Communications Department Endorsement No W26 (39) dated the 9th September 1939

By order etc

K V VENKATACHALAM

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

[31st Oct 1946]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

NOTIFICATION

Dated New Delhi, the 18th September 1946

No 10 M(1)/26 46 II.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934 (XXII of 1934) the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Indian Aircraft Rules 1937 namely—

In the said Rules, rule 12A shall be omitted

M H ZUBERI

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Copy forwarded to the —

- 1 Home Department
- 2 War Department
- 3 Political Department (15 1/2)
- 4 External Affairs Department
- 5 Director General of Civil Aviation in India

By order, etc

K V VENKATACHALAM

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

NOTIFICATION

Dated New Delhi, the 23rd September 1946

No 10 M(4)/27 45.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 and sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Indian Aircraft Act 1934 (XXII of 1934) the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Indian Aircraft Rules 1937 namely—

For rule 133A of the said Rules the following rule shall be substituted namely

133A.—The Flying Control Regulations and Communications Procedure as may from time to time be prescribed by Air Headquarters India, or the Director General of Civil Aviation in India and promulgated by the said Director General in Notices to Airmen shall with effect from the 1st October 1946 apply to all civil aircraft being in or over British India and shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in the preceding parts of these rules"

M H ZUBERI

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Copy forwarded to —

- 1 Director General of Civil Aviation in India
- 2 War Department

By order, etc

K V VENKATACHALAM

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

NOTIFICATION

Dated New Delhi, the 26th September 1946

No 11 M(4)/17 46.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act 1934 (XXII of 1934) the Central Government is pleased to direct that the

following further amendments shall be made in the Indian Aircraft Rules 1937, namely —
In the said Rules,—

(1) In rule 135—

(a) For subrule (2), the following subrule shall be substituted namely —

"(2) The Board shall consist of a Chairman and not less than two and not more than four other Members all of whom shall be appointed by the Central Government. The Chairman shall be a person who is or has been, a judge of a High Court in British India. One of the other members shall be appointed in consultation with the Crown Representative and the other member or members shall be persons with high judicial or administrative experience."

(b) For subrule (4) and subrule (5) the following subrules shall be substituted respectively, namely—

"(4) During the temporary absence of the Chairman or other Member of the Board the Central Government may, if it thinks fit, appoint a person to be a temporary Chairman or Member for the period of such absence."

"(5) During any temporary absence of the Chairman for which a temporary Chairman has not been appointed under subrule (4) the duties of his office shall be performed by such one of the other Members of the Board as may be nominated in this behalf by the Chairman."

(2) After rule 135A the following rule shall be inserted namely —

"135A *Advisers to the Board*—(1) The Central Government may appoint as Advisers to the Board—

(i) The Director General

(ii) a person with special knowledge of aviation or in transport and

(iii) a person with special experience of financial matters

(2) The Board may call upon any Adviser appointed under subrule (1) to express his views on any matter before it and when so called upon the Adviser may take part in the proceedings of the Board but shall not be entitled to vote.

(3) In clause (b) of subrule (2) of rule 135E the words 'Deputy Chairman' shall be omitted.

(4) Rule 135I shall be omitted.

(5) In rule 135F the words 'or if he be absent the Deputy Chairman' shall be omitted.

(6) In subrule (2) of rule 135F the words 'or the Deputy Chairman' shall be omitted.

(7) In subrule (2) of rule 136, the words 'the Deputy Chairman' shall be omitted.

(8) After subrule (2) of rule 137 the following subrule shall be inserted namely —

"(3) All applications received by the Director General shall be examined and investigated by him and shall be forwarded by him with a report thereon to the Board at least ten days before the date fixed for the consideration of the application."

(9) Rule 139 shall be renumbered as subrule (1) of that rule and in subrule (1) as so renumbered the words 'through the Director General' shall be omitted and for the words 'forwarded to the Director General' the words 'attached to the representation' shall be substituted.

After subrule (1) the following subrule shall be inserted namely—

"(2) The Director General shall have the right to make a representation against any application for licence but will not be required to pay any fees prescribed in rule 154."

(10) After rule 148 the following rules shall be inserted namely —

"148A *Review by the Board*—(1) The Board shall, subject to the provisions of Rule 148 have no power to review its order granting a licence.

(2) An order of the Board refusing a licence may be reviewed by the Board—

(i) if a licence has not already been granted to operate a service on the route involved, or

(ii) if such a licence has been granted but in the opinion of the Board the traffic potential on the route involved warrants the grant of a licence to the applicant for review also.

(3) The Board may review any order of suspension or revocation made by it under rule 148.

(4) A review under subrule (2) or subrule (3) shall be made only

(a) on the ground of some mistake or error apparent on the face of the record or

(b) upon the discovery of any new and important matter or evidence which notwithstanding the exercise of due diligence was not within the knowledge of the applicant or could not be produced by him at the time when the order sought to be reviewed was made.

(5) Any other order or decision of the Board not being an order granting, refusing, suspending or revoking a licence, may be reviewed by the Board if it thinks fit.

(6) A fee of Rs 500 shall be paid in respect of every application for review of an order refusing, suspending or revoking a licence. The Board however, may, if it allows an application for review on the sole ground that there was an error or mistake apparent on the face of the record order a refund of a part of the fee to the applicant.

(7) An application for review of any order or decision required to be published under rule 149 shall not be entertained unless filed within 60 days of the publication of such order or decision in the *Gazette of India* provided that such an application may be admitted after the said period if the applicant satisfies the Board that he had sufficient cause for not making the application within that period.

(8) No order or decision of the Board shall be modified or reversed on review except by a unanimous decision of the full Board.

148B Correction of accidental mistakes.—The Board may, at any time, whether of its own motion or on application by any party correct clerical or arithmetical mistakes in any of its orders or any errors arising therefrom from any accidental slip or omission.

(1) In rule 155—

(a) In subrule (1) and in clauses (i) and (b) after the words "the Director General" the words "and the Board" shall be inserted and the words "by him occurring after the word 'prescribed'" shall be omitted.

(b) In subrule (2) the words "by the Director General" shall be omitted.

M R ZUBERI

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

APPENDIX II

(vide page 320 ante)

WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi the 24th April 1946

No 37 TP (8)/46—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 111 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (IV of 1939) read with section 22 of the general Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897), the Central Government is pleased to make the following rules the same having been previously published as required by section 133 of the first mentioned Act, namely:—

Rules

PART I

1 **Short title.**—These rules may be called the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) Rules 1946.

2 **Commencement.**—These rules shall come into force on 1st July 1946.

3 **Definitions.**—In these rules

(i) "the Act" means the Motor Vehicles Act 1939

(ii) "Insurer" means an authorised insurer as defined in Section 93(a) of the Act

(iii) "Policy" means a policy of insurance in respect of third party risks arising out of the use of motor vehicles, such as complies with the requirements of Chapter VIII of the Act, and includes unless the context requires otherwise a cover note.

4 **Certificates of insurance.**—An insurer shall issue to every holder of a policy other than a cover note issued by the insurer:—

(a) in the case of a policy relating to a specified vehicle or to specified vehicles a certificate of insurance in Form A set out in the schedule to these rules in respect of each such vehicle

(b) in the case of a policy not relating to any specified vehicle or vehicles such number of certificates in Form A set out in the schedule to these rules as may be necessary to enable compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the Act and of these rules as to the production of evidence that a motor vehicle is not being driven in contravention of Section 94 of the Act

5 **Cover Notes.**—Every policy in the form of a cover note issued by an insurer shall be in, or to the effect of Form B set out in the schedule to these rules.

6 *Issue of certificates and cover notes*—(1) Every certificate of insurance or cover note issued by an insurer in compliance with these rules shall be duly authenticated by or on behalf of the insurer by whom it is issued.

(2) The certificate of insurance aforesaid shall be issued

- (a) in the case of policies which are in force on 1st Jul, 1946, on or before that date,
- (b) in any other case on or before the date on which the policy is issued or renewed.

This sub-rule shall not apply to certificates of insurance issued in pursuance of the provisions of rule 8 of these rules.

7 *Exclusion of advertising matter*—No certificate of insurance or cover note issued in pursuance of Chapter VIII of the Act and of these Rules shall contain any advertising matter either on the face or on the back thereof,

Provided that the name and address of the insurer by whom a certificate is issued or a reproduction of the seal of the insurer or any monogram or similar device of the insurer or the name and address of an insurance agent or broker shall not be deemed to be advertising matter for the purposes of this Rule if it is printed or stamped at the foot or on the back of such certificate or cover note.

8 *Certificates or cover notes lost or destroyed*—(1) Where the holder of a policy

(a) lodges with an insurer a declaration in which he declares that a certificate of insurance or cover note issued to him by such insurer has been lost or destroyed and sets out full particulars of the circumstances connected with the loss or destruction of the certificate or cover note and the efforts made to find it,

(b) or returns to the insurer the certificate of insurance or cover note issued to him by such insurer in a defaced or mutilated condition, and

(c) pays to the insurer a fee of Rs. 3 in respect of each such certificate or cover note, the insurer shall if reasonably satisfied that such certificate or cover note has been lost and that all reasonable efforts have been made to find it or that it has been destroyed or is defaced or mutilated in the case, may be issue in lieu thereof another certificate of insurance or cover note which shall be plainly endorsed to the effect that it is a duplicate certificate or cover note as the case may be issued in place of the original.

(2) When a fresh certificate or cover note has been issued in accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (1) on representation that a certificate or cover note has been lost and the original certificate or cover note is afterwards found by the holder it shall be delivered to the insurer.

9 *Surrender of certificate or cover note*—Every certificate of insurance or cover note surrendered to the insurer in pursuance of the provisions of section 104 (1) of the Act shall be defaced or destroyed by the insurer forthwith after making a record of such surrender or destruction in the records maintained in pursuance of rule 11 of these rules.

10 *Cancellation or suspension of certificate or cover note*—When a policy of insurance or cover note is cancelled or suspended by an insurer the insurer shall forthwith inform the policy holder of such cancellation or suspension by post to the latest address of the policy holder recorded in the records of the insurer.

11 *Records to be maintained by insurers*—Every insurer shall keep a record of the following particulars in respect of every policy issued by him which is in force and of every other policy issued by him during the preceding five years—

(i) Full name and address of the person to whom the policy is issued.

(ii) In the case of a policy relating to a specified motor vehicle or vehicles the registration mark and the number of each such vehicle and in other cases description of the vehicles covered.

(iii) The date on which the policy came, or came into force and the date on which it expires or expired.

(iv) The conditions subject to which the persons or classes of persons specified in the policy will be indemnified.

(v) The number and date of issue of every certificate of insurance or cover note issued in connection with the policy.

(vi) The date at any on which any certificate of insurance or cover note issued in connection with the policy was surrendered or cancelled.

(vii) The date if any, on which and the reasons for which the policy was terminated or suspended by any means before its expiry by efflux of time.

12 *Exemption under Section 94(2) of the Act*—(1) In the case of a motor vehicle owned by any of the authorities specified in sub-section (2) of section 94 of the Act a certificate in Form 'C' set out in the schedule to these rules signed by a person authorised in that behalf by such authority may be produced in evidence that the motor vehicle is not being driven in contravention of section 94 of the Act.

(2) Any certificate issued in accordance with subrule (1) of this Rule shall be destroyed by the person by whom it was issued before the motor vehicle to which it relates is sold or otherwise disposed of.

13 *Records of exempted vehicles*—Every authority referred to in sub-section (2) of section 94 of the Act shall keep a record of the motor vehicles owned by it in respect of which a policy has not been obtained, and of any certificates issued by it under those provisions in respect of such vehicles, and of the names and addresses of the persons to whom such certificates have been issued by it, and of the withdrawal or destruction of any such certificates.

14 *Supply of information*—Any person authority or insurer required by these rules to keep records of documents shall furnish without charge to the Central Government or a Provincial Government or to any police officer authorised in this behalf by the Provincial Government on request any particulars thereof.

15 *Fee for production of information*—The fee to be paid in return for the production of information by a Registering Authority or the officer in charge of a police station under Section 109 of the Act shall be Re 1.

PART II—CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE

16 *Definitions*—In this part of these rules

(i) 'society' means a society of public service vehicle owners which has been permitted under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 106 of the Act to transact the business of an insurer for the purposes of the Act as if it were an authorised insurer.

(ii) 'Superintendent of Insurance' means the person for the time being performing the functions of the Superintendent of Insurance under the provisions of the Insurance Act 1938.

(iii) 'approved securities' means approved securities as defined in sub-section (3) of section 2 of the Insurance Act, 1938.

(iv) 'holding authority' means in relation to a society the authority in whose custody the fund established under clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 106 of the Act is to be lodged.

17 *Co-operative Insurance Fund*—The fund required to be established in terms of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 108 of the Act shall be held in the form of a deposit made either in cash or in approved securities or partly in cash and partly in approved securities and the amount of approved securities so held shall be estimated at the market value of the securities on the day of the deposit.

Provided that where a deposit held under the Insurance Act 1938 is transferred to the holding authority in pursuance of Rule 24 of these rules the date of the deposit shall in the case of approved securities so transferred be deemed to be the date of such transfer.

18 *Deposits—procedure*—(1) Deposits shall be sent by the society with a covering letter to the holding authority.

(2) Securities shall be duly transferred to the holding authority by the society.

(3) Upon receipt of a deposit under subrule (1) of this rule the holding authority shall send

(a) a certificate in form D to the society,

(b) a statement in form E to such officer as may be specified by the Provincial Government.

Provided that if the holding authority is not satisfied as to the validity of the title of the society to the securities, he may retain them to the society with the request that they shall first be renewed or that such other measures as may be necessary shall be taken to clear the title.

(4) The deposit made in cash shall be held by the holding authority to the credit of the society and shall except to the extent if any to which the cash has been invested in securities under subrule 6 of this rule be returnable to the society in cash in any case in which under the provisions of the Act or of these rules the fund is to be returned.

(5) The society may at any time replace any securities deposited by it under these rules with the holding authority either by cash or by other approved securities or partly by cash and partly by other approved securities provided that such cash or the value of such other approved securities estimated at the market rates prevailing at the time of replacement or such cash together with such value as the case may be is not less than the value of the securities replaced estimated at the market rates prevailing when they were deposited.

(6) The holding authority shall if so requested by the society

(a) sell any securities deposited by it with the holding authority under these rules and hold the cash realised by such sale as deposit or

(b) invest in approved securities specified by the society the whole or any part of a deposit held by the holding authority in cash or the whole or any part of the cash received

by him on the sale of, or on the maturing of securities deposited by the society, and hold the securities in which investment is so made as deposit and may charge the normal commission on such sale or on such investment.

(7) Where subrule (6) of this rule applies,

(a) if the cash realised by the sale of, or on the maturing of the securities (excluding in the former case the interest accrued) falls short of the market value of the securities at the date on which they were deposited with the holding authority, the society shall make good the deficiency by a further deposit either in cash or in approved securities estimated at the market value of the securities on the day on which they are deposited, or partly in cash and partly in approved securities so estimated within a period of two months from the date on which the securities matured or were sold, and unless it does so the society shall be deemed to have failed to comply with the condition imposed under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of Section 108 of the Act; and

(b) if the cash realised by the sale of, or on the maturing of the securities (excluding in the former case the interest accrued) exceeds the market value of the securities at the date on which they were deposited with the holding authority, the Provincial Government may, if satisfied that the full amount required to be deposited under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 108 of the Act is in deposit direct the holding authority to return the excess.

19. *Interest on securities held as a deposit.*—(1) No interest shall be paid on cash deposits.

(2) Any interest accruing due and collected on securities deposited under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 108 of the Act and these rules shall be paid to the society, subject only to deduction of the normal commission chargeable for the retention of interest.

(3) The holding authority shall remit interest or dividends on securities without delay to the society by a Government or bank draft after deduction of a commission of three per cent on every sum of Rs. 100 or part thereof.

20. *Matured securities held as a deposit.*—(1) When a security in deposit matures or when any yield on such a security ceases to accrue the holding authority shall not be bound to inform the society but upon receipt of a requisition from the society made in writing the holding authority shall within six weeks of such a receipt collect the discharge value and hold the amount in cash to the credit of the society or invest it in securities specified by the society.

(2) When the form or amount of a deposit is changed by reason of a subsequent deposit or a substitution or a payment under subrule (5) of rule 18 or a sale or investment under subrule (6) of rule 18 of these rules, the holding authority shall within two weeks from the entry of such change in the books of the holding authority send a fresh certificate and a fresh statement of the nature and in the manner described in subrule (3) of rule 18 of these rules.

21. *Payments from deposits.*—(1) Withdrawals and payments from deposits and purchases of securities shall not be made save on the order of the Provincial Government made in writing, and save on the receipt by the holding authority of a requisition in writing and in accordance with the provisions of the Act and of these rules from the society, a liquidator acting in accordance with law, or a Court of competent jurisdiction in the case may be.

(2) The holding authority shall not be bound in pursuance of subrule (1) to return securities actually deposited but may substitute therefor new scrip or securities of the same description and amount.

(3) The holding authority shall be entitled to charge, for the purchase or sale of securities any brokerage payable by the holding authority in respect of such purchase or sale.

22. *Inspection of deposits.*—Any officer authorised in this behalf by the Provincial Government shall be entitled free of any fee, to inspect or to require from the holding authority any information relating to any security deposited with the holding authority in terms of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 108 of the Act and of these rules, and the holding authority shall if so required furnish such officer with a copy of any entry in any register or book maintained by the holding authority relating to any deposit made with him in pursuance of the Act and of these rules.

23. *Information to the Reserve Bank.*—Where a society to which permission is granted under sub-section (1) of section 108 of the Act to transact the business of an insurer for the purposes of the Act is at it were an authorised insurer is registered under the Insurance Act 1938 at the time of the grant of such permission the Provincial Government shall intimate the grant of such permission to the Reserve Bank of India and shall also intimate to that Bank all the conditions imposed by the Provincial Government relating to the establishment of the fund referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 108 of the Act in relation to such society.

24. *Transfer of deposit from Reserve Bank.*—(1) A society as aforesaid shall apply in writing to the Reserve Bank of India for the transfer of the deposit made under section 7 or section 98 of the Insurance Act 1938 held by the Reserve Bank to the holding authority and such application shall be duly authenticated and accompanied by the order in original of the Provincial Government granting the society permission under sub-section

(1) of section 108 of the Act and containing the conditions, if any, imposed by the Provincial Government under clause (a) of such section (1) of section 108 of the Act, and an attested copy of such application and its enclosures shall also be sent to the Superintendent of Insurance.

(2) If from the application so made the Reserve Bank is satisfied that the society has been granted permission by the Provincial Government under sub-section (1) of section 108 of the Act, the Reserve Bank shall transfer the deposit held by it under section 7 of section 98 of the Insurance Act 1938 on behalf of the society to the holding authority subject to such conditions if any as may have been imposed by the Provincial Government.

25 *Information to the Superintendent of Insurance*—A Provincial Government shall intimate to the Superintendent of Insurance every case of permission granted by it to a society to transact the business of an insurer for the purposes of the Act and every case where such permission has been withdrawn or cancelled and in every case where such permission has been granted the Provincial Government shall also furnish to the Superintendent of Insurance a copy of the documents referred to in clauses (a) (b) and (i) of sub-section (2) of section 3 and the particulars referred to in section 26 of the Insurance Act 1938 in relation to such society so far as is applicable to such society.

Provided that in the case of societies which at the time of grant of the permission by the Provincial Government have been registered under the Insurance Act 1938 it shall be sufficient compliance with the requirements of this rule if the Provincial Government furnishes to the Superintendent of Insurance the particulars referred to in section 26 of the Insurance Act 1938 in respect of every alteration taking place after the date on which permission is granted to the society by the Provincial Government.

26 *Failure of a Society to comply with the provision of the Act*—The Superintendent of Insurance shall intimate to the Provincial Government concerned every case in which from a period of the returns furnished to him by a society he is of the opinion that the society has failed to comply with the requirements of either sub-clause (i) or sub-clause (ii) of clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 108 of the Act or both.

PART III—FOREIGN INSURANCE

27 *Definitions*—In this part of these rules—

(i) "Visitor" means a person bringing a motor vehicle into British India and making only a temporary stay therein not extending to a continuous period of more than one year.

(ii) "Foreign insurer" means a person or firm carrying on the business of insurance incorporated or domiciled outside British India and not registered under the Insurance Act 1938.

(iii) "Guarantor" means an insurer who has guaranteed a foreign insurer in pursuance of these rules and "guarantee" "guaranteed" and "guaranteeing" have corresponding meanings.

(iv) "Approved list" means the list of foreign insurers and their guarantors maintained by the Central Government under these rules.

(v) "Certificate of foreign insurance" means a certificate issued by a foreign insurer in Form G in compliance with these rules.

28 *List of foreign insurers*—(1) The Central Government shall publish in the official Gazette a list (hereinafter referred to as the approved list) of foreign insurers who have been guaranteed in accordance with these rules together with the name of the guarantor or guarantors in each case and shall also publish any addition to or removal from the approved list.

(2) No foreign insurer's name shall be added to the approved list until such foreign insurer has been guaranteed by at least one insurer and the name of the foreign insurer who ceases to have at least one guarantor shall be removed from the list.

29 *Guarantor of foreign insurer*—(1) An insurer who desires to guarantee a foreign insurer shall make application therefor to the Central Government in Form E set out in the Schedule to these rules.

(2) The Central Government may if it is satisfied that the application referred to in sub-rule (1) is in order and that it is expedient that the foreign insurer be placed in the approved list or where the name of the foreign insurer is already included in the approved list that the insurer should be added to the approved list as a guarantor of the foreign insurer add the name of the foreign insurer to the approved list if it is not already included and include the insurer as a guarantor of such foreign insurer.

(3) A guarantor desiring to cease guaranteeing a foreign insurer shall give notice at not less than two months to the Central Government in Form F set out in the schedule to these rules and while such notice has been given the guarantor shall be deemed to have ceased to guarantee the foreign insurer from the date specified in the notice.

Provided that the insurer shall be deemed in respect of all certificates of foreign insurance endorsed or renewed in accordance with the provisions of rule 30 (2) of these rules before the date of such cessation to continue as the guarantor of the foreign insurer who has issued the certificate as if the guarantor had not ceased to be his guarantor.

(4) If at any time a guarantor ceases to be an insurer the Central Government may after giving such notice as may appear to it to be necessary remove from the approved list the name of such guarantor wherever it appears.

Provided that the insurer who ceases to be an insurer shall be deemed in respect of all certificates of foreign insurance endorsed in pursuance of the provisions of rule 30(2) of these rules before the date of removal of the name of the guarantor from the approved list to continue as the guarantor of the foreign insurer as if the guarantor had not ceased to be an insurer and as if his name had not been removed from the list.

30 *Endorsement of certificate of foreign insurance*—(1) A visitor wishing to have a certificate of foreign insurance endorsed or reendorsed shall produce such certificate in Form G set out in the schedule to these rules before the Customs Collector at a port of entry or land customs post or to such other officer as the Central Government may by notification in the official gazette appoint, for the purpose of endorsement in accordance with the provisions of these rules or for the purpose of the renewal of any endorsement already made on the certificate in accordance with these rules.

(2) Such officer shall, if satisfied that the certificate of foreign insurance complies with the requirements of these rules, that the period of validity of such certificate in British India has not expired, that the certificate has been issued by a foreign insurer in the approved list and that the guarantor specified in the certificate is shown in the approved list as a guarantor of the foreign insurer, make an endorsement thereon in Form H set out in the schedule to these rules.

(3) The period of validity of an endorsement or of the renewal of an endorsement made as aforesaid shall not in any case extend beyond the date on which the certificate of foreign insurance ceases to be effective in British India, provided that, when a visitor obtains a fresh certificate of foreign insurance during the period of his stay in India, the period of validity of an endorsement made upon it added to the period of validity of an endorsement or endorsements that may have been made upon the original certificate, shall not exceed one year in all.

31 *Validity of certificate of foreign insurance*—A certificate of foreign insurance carrying an endorsement in accordance with the provisions of rule 30 shall have effect as if it were a certificate of insurance issued by the guarantor specified in it and shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of Chapter VIII of the Act, and the policy to which it relates shall also be deemed to have been issued by such guarantor and to comply with the requirements of Chapter VIII of the Act.

32 *Maintenance of records by the guarantor*—Every guarantor shall in respect of certificates of foreign insurance issued under his guarantee by the foreign insurer whom he has guaranteed, and every person who has ceased to be a guarantor shall, in respect of the certificates of foreign insurance issued under his guarantee by the foreign insurers whom he had guaranteed at any time in the preceding five years, keep a record of such particulars relating to the policies in connection with which the certificates of foreign insurance were issued as are required to be kept by insurers under the provisions of rule 11 of these rules in respect of policies and the necessary additions to these records required to make them up to date shall be made as soon as is reasonably possible in the circumstances.

THE SCHEDULE

FORM A

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT, 1939

Certificate of Insurance

(See rule 4)

Certificate No. _____, Policy No. _____ (Optional)

- 1 Registration mark and number, or description of the vehicles insured
- 2 Name and address of insured
- 3 Effective date of commencement of insurance for the purposes of the Act
- 4 Date of expiry of insurance
- 5 Persons or classes of persons entitled to drive
- 6 Limitations as to use

I/We hereby certify that the policy to which this certificate relates as well as this certificate of insurance are issued in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939

(Authorised insurer)

FORM B

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT, 1939

Cover Note

(See rule 5)

- 1 Registration mark and number, or description, of the vehicles insured
- 2 Name and address of insured
- 3 Effective date of commencement of insurance for the purposes of the Act
- 4 Date of expiry of insurance
- 5 Persons or classes of persons entitled to drive
- 6 Limitations as to use

I/We hereby certify that this cover note is issued in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939

(Authorised insurer)

APPENDIX II

369

FORM E

(See rule 18)

No

19

Statement showing the particulars of deposits held on behalf of the
under clause (A) of subsection (1) of Section 108 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939

Town	Existing deposits (excluding deposits withdrawn)		New deposits received on		Total	
	Face Value	Book Value	Face Value	Book Value	Face Value	Book Value
Total						
Cash						
Grand Total						

Certified that the above agrees with the entries in the books maintained by

(the holding authority)

To

(holding authority)

FORM F

(See rule 29)

Motor Vehicles Act, 1939

Application for the approval of a foreign insurer

I/We hereby apply for the inclusion of

(name of foreign insurer)

Constituted Incorporated/domiciled at
in the approved list maintained by the Central Government
in pursuance of the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) Rules 1946 and for the inclu-
sion of my/our name as the guarantor of the said
(name of foreign insurer) for the purposes of Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939
and the said Rules. I/We hereby certify that I/We have entered into an arrangement for
the purposes of the said Act and the said rules with the said foreign insurer and I/We
hereby agree to act as guarantor in British India in respect of the said foreign insurer for
the purposes of the said Act and the said Rules

(Signature of authorised insurer)

address

Dated the

19

FORM G

(See rule 30)

Motor Vehicles Act 1939

Certificate of foreign Insurance

Certificate No

Policy No

(Optional)

- 1 Name and address of approved foreign insurer
- 2 Name and address of guarantor
- 3 Registration mark and number of the motor vehicle
- 4 Name and address of visitor
- 5 Date of commencement of the policy
- 6 Date of expiry of the policy
- 7 Persons or classes of persons entitled to drive in British India
- 8 Any limitations as to use in British India
- 9 Particulars of any other vehicle(s) which the foreign visitor is entitled to drive in British India and of any limitations in this connection

I/We hereby certify that this certificate of foreign insurance has been issued in accord-
ance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939 and the Motor
Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) Rules 1946

(Approved foreign insurer)

FORM H

(See rule 30)

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT, 1939

Endorsement on certificate of foreign insurance

Certified that I have today examined this certificate of foreign insurance and that I am satisfied that this certificate complies with the requirements of Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 and of the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) Rules 1946

The period of validity of this endorsement will expire on _____ unless cancelled in the meanwhile

Date

(Signature and designation of
competent authority)

The period of validity of this endorsement is hereby renewed

Up to

Up to

Up to

Unless cancelled in the meanwhile

(Signature and designation of
competent authority)

FORM I

(See rule 29)

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT 1939

This is to give notice that I/we desire to cease acting as guarantors in British India
of _____
of _____

(name of foreign insurer) (address of foreign insurer) after
on from the expiry of two months from the date on which this notice is delivered to the
Central Government, whichever is later, for the purposes of Chapter VIII of the Motor
Vehicles Act, 1939, and the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) Rules, 1946

(Authorised insurer)

Dated, this

the day of

19

E CONRAN SMITH, Secy

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG

Dated Mercara, the 7th August 1946

No 254/R.F. 8545.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 68 and 70 of the
Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (Act IV of 1939), the Chief Commissioner is hereby pleased to
make the following amendments to the Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, issued with his
notification No R.F. 45/12139, dated the 26th March 1940, as subsequently amended —

Amendment

1 In rule 82 of the said Rules the following new clause (g) shall be added —

"(g) The provisions of this rule shall not apply to motor vehicles registered under section 39 of the Act"

2 The existing entry in rule 146 of the said Rules, "rule 91" shall be numbered as (a) and the following new entry shall be inserted —

"(b) The District Superintendent of Police may by order in writing and subject to any conditions authorise the driving at night without lights of motor vehicles registered under section 39 of the Act during the hours and on the route or routes or in the area, within his jurisdiction specified in the order"

K CHENGAPPA,
Chief Commissioner

**Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State
are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FRIDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1946

Vol. VII—No. 5

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 1st November 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

POLITICAL PENSIONS TO FOREIGN REFUGEES AND OTHERS

'141. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state

(a) the amount of political pensions paid to foreign refugees and descendants of those who rendered service abroad or on the frontier, and

(b) the names and description of persons who are now in receipt of these pensions together with the amount of pension paid to every such person?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Apart from Afghan refugees and their descendants no political pensions are being paid to foreign refugees in India. Approximately Rs 2,27,000 per annum are paid to these persons as allowances for their maintenance and the education of their children.

(b) A detailed statement for the year ending 31st December 1945 is laid on the table.

Statement of Afghan refugees in India in receipt of allowances from Government for the year ending 31st December 1945

Serial No	Names	Maintenance and other allowances if any, paid per mensem
1	2	3
MADRAS R a p		
*1	Abdul Hakim Khan	150 0 0
		140 0 0 (House rent)
		4 0 0 (Educational allowance to one son)
*2	Amin Jan	550 0 0
		100 0 0 (House rent)
*3	Ghausuddin Khan	550 0 0 (including house rent)
		16 10 0 (Educational allowances to one son and three daughters)
BOMBAY		
*4	Muhammad Ibrahim	100 0 0
*5	Muhammad Ismail	90 0 0
*6	Taj Muhammad	90 0 0
*7	Muhammad Hassan	100 0 0
8	Ghulam Ahmad	300 0 0
9	Fazal Ahmad	200 0 0
10	Ali Mohammed	200 0 0
11	Fakir Ahmad	100 0 0
12	Musammat Shah Bano	100 0 0

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

1	2	3
BENGAL		
13	Abdul Aziz Khan . . .	250 0 0
		60 0 0 (House rent)
14	Saifulla Khan . . .	25 0 0
UNITED PROVINCES		
*15	Sultan Ahmad Khan . . .	330 0 0
		7 15 11 (to meet income-tax)
*16	Sher Ahmad Khan . . .	275 0 0
		6 10 8 (To meet income-tax)
		22 8 0 (Educational allowances to one son and one daughter)
*17	Muhammad Sarwar Khan . .	270 0 0
		6 10 8 (to meet income-tax)
		12 8 0 (Educational allowance to daughter)
*18	Muhamad Usar Khan (absconding)	200 0 0 (to the family)
		25 0 0 (Educational allowance to two sons)
*19	Nur Ahmad Khan . . .	275 0 0
		6 10 8 (to meet income tax)
		25 0 0 (Educational allowance to his sons)
*20	Abdur Rashid Khan Khan	165 0 0
		200 0 0 (on account of illness)
*21	Muhammad Akram Khan . .	400 0 0
22	Muhammad Azam Khan . .	300 0 0
23	Muhammad Afzal Khan	100 0 0
24	Muhammad Nadir Khan Durran	30 0 0 (Educational allowance to his brother and two sisters)
25	Muhammad Hasan Khan	200 0 0
26	Muhammad Umar Khan . .	100 0 0
27	Gul Muhammad Khan	100 0 0
		50 0 0 (Educational allowance to his son)
28	Abdul Ali Khan	350 0 0
		37 8 0 (Educational allowances to his son and daughter)
29	Abdur Rahim Khan . . .	250 0 0
30	Muhammad Azim Khan . .	100 0 0

1	2	3
31	Widow of the late Muhammad Umar Khan	Rs. a p 10 0 0
32	Ghulam Siddiq	30 0 0
33	Abdul Gham	4 2 8
34	Shamsud-din	16 10 8 (to his mother)
35	Abdul Rahman Khan	60 0 0
36	Sohrab Khan	15 0 0
37	Ghulam Rasul	12 0 0
38	Miran Shah	15 0 0
39	Mohammad Hasan Khan	28 5 4 (Educational allowances to his sons and daughter)
40	Abdul Aziz Khan	100 0 0
41	Muhammad Aslam Khan	4 0 0
42	Dest Muhammad Khan	30 0 0 4 2 8 (Educational allowance to his son)
43	Ghulam Qadir Khan	96 4 0 52 8 4 (House-rent)
44	Ghulam Dostgir	96 4 0 52 8 4 (House rent)
45	Muhammad Akbar Khan	96 4 0 52 8 4 (House-rent)
46	Muhammad Akbar Khan	96 4 0 52 8 4 (House-rent)
47	Ali Abbas Khan	4 2 8 (Educational allowance to one son)
48	Ghulam Rustul Khan	15 0 0
49	Ali Raza Khan	15 0 0
50	Alunad Qasim Khan	15 0 0
*51	Abdul Rahman Khan	220 0 0 (after deducting Rs 30 paid to his son) 70 0 0 (House-rent)
52	Abdul Azim Khan	30 0 0 4 2 8 (Educational allowance to his son)
53	Muhammad Musa Jan Khan alias Wilfred Khan Musa.	1,600 0 0 208 5 4 (House-rent)

1	2	3
54	Abdullah Khan Durrani	Ra. a. p. 20 0 0 (Educational allowance for his two sons)
55	Muhammad Mohsin Khan	150 0 0 8 5 4 (Educational allowance to his two sons)
*56	Ghulam Nabi	69 0 0 (including As 10 daily diet allowance) 12 0 0 (House-rent)
*57	Muhammad Din	49 0 0 (including As 10 daily diet allowance)
*58	Muhammad Jan	60 0 0
*59	Muhammad Siddique	49 0 0 (including As 10 daily diet allowance) 20 0 0 (House-rent)
*60	Abdul Hakim	69 0 0 (including As 10 daily diet allowance) 50 0 0 (House-rent to him and his brother)
*61	Abdul Majid	69 0 0 (including As 10 daily diet allowance) 30 0 0 (House-rent) 4 2 8 (Educational allowance to his son)
*62	Khan Baba	80 0 0 (including Re. 1 daily allowance)
63	Abdul Wahab Khan	200 0 0 (to his mother)
64	Abdul Bapi Khan	7 8 0 (to his mother)
65	Agha Ali Muhammad Khan	10 0 0 (Educational allowance to his son)
66	Muhammad Unus Khan	25 0 0 (to his grand-mother) 25 0 0 (to his brother and sister) 4 2 8 (Educational allowance to his brother)
67	Ahmad Ayyub Salah Uddin Khan	25 0 0 (Educational allowance)
68	Abdul Aziz Khan	25 0 0 (Educational allowance)
69	Muhammad Asif Khan	4 2 8 (Educational allowance)
70	Yar Muhammad Khan	10 0 0 (Educational allowance)
CENTRAL PROVINCES		
*71	Abdullah Khan	660 0 0 120 0 0 (House-rent)
*72	Abdul Hamid Khan	550 0 0 100 0 0 (House-rent) 25 0 0 (Educational allowances to two sons)

PARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Abdul Quayyum Khan

495 0 0

80 0 0 (Hot

Ata Mohammad

60 0 0

30 0 0 (to his mother)

10 0 0 (to his brother)

10 0 0 (to his sister)

8 5 4 (Educational allowances)

74 0 0 (including Re 1/6 daily allowance)

8 5 4 (Educational allowances)

Ali Ahn

Musanu

Musunnat Shah Gul Bibi

15 0 0

BALUCHISTAN

Abdul Halim

25 0 0

Abdul Rahman Haji

6 0 0

K S Ahmad Khan

60 0 0

Ali Ahmad Khan

50 0 0

Dad Muhammad Khan

45 0 0

Inayat Ullah

30 0 0

Muhammad Hassan Khan

75 0 0

Muhammad Yusuf

25 0 0

Muhammad Usman Khan

70 0 0

12 8 0

Members of the late Shah Nawaz
Khansfamily.

84 0 0

Abdul Qadir Sahibzada

80 0 0

1	2	3
PUNJAB		
		Rs a p.
94	Saulet Jang	10 0 0
95	Abdul Ahad	5 0 0
96	Ahmad Ali Khan	25 0 0
97	Hussain Ali Khan	50 0 0
98	Abdul Azim Khan	250 0 0
99	Abdul Halim Khan	50 0 0
100	Fateh Muhammad	9 0 0
		3 0 0 (House-rent)
101	Nazar Muhammad Khan	9 0 0
		3 0 0 (House-rent)
102	Usman Khan	9 0 0
		3 0 0 (House-rent)
103	Abdul Kadir Khan	500 0 0
104	Abdul Samad Khan	200 0 0
105	Abdul Habib	4 8 0
106	Abdul Hamid	18 0 0
107	Abdul Kadir Khan	300 0 0
108	Abdul Qayum	2 8 0
109	Ali Ahmad	9 0 0
110	Barat Ali	4 8 0
111	Ghulam Muhammad	6 0 0
112	Ghulam Naqashband	17 8 0
113	Khan Sahib Ghulam Raza Khan	10 0 0
114	Ghulam Sarwar Khan	20 0 0
115	Khair Muhammad	9 0 0
116	Shamsheer Khan	27 8 0
117	Nisar Muhammad Khan	200 0 0;
118	Sher Ali Khan	100 0 0
119	Nur Ahmad Jan	50 0 0
120	Abdul Reza Khan	10 0 0
121	Muhammad Alam Khan	40 0 0
KASHMIR		
122	Abdur Rahman Khan Effendi	2,100 0 0
NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE		
123	Abdul Latif	20 0 0
124	Nur Mohammad Shah	110 0 0
125	Sarwar Khan	240 0 0

QUOTA OF REPARATIONS ALLOTTED TO INDIA BY THE REPARATIONS AGENCY, BRUSSELS

†142. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Commerce Department please state.

(a) whether the interim Government have considered the question that India should not accept the quota of reparations allotted to her by the Reparations Agency, Brussels, and

(b) whether any equipment described in the three lists placed on the table of the House on the 20th February 1946 in reply to Mr K C Neogy's Starred Question No 391 has actually been received by India as advance deliveries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) No

(b) No The Inter-Alled Reparations Agency at Brussels who are responsible for allocation of German reparations to claimant countries have so far allocated eleven German Plants to some of those countries. One of these plants, viz, Wagner Plant at Dortmund—No 6 in the A C C List No 1 and No 1008 in I A R A List No 1 has been allocated to India subject to arbitration claimed by the United Kingdom in respect of five machines out of this plant, under Art 7 of Part II of the Paris Agreement on German reparations. The arbitrator's award has been given in favour of the United Kingdom. The question whether the plant despite the removal of five of its machines should be accepted by India is now under the consideration of Government

FURTHER QUOTA OF REPARATIONS RECEIVED FROM GERMAN

†143. *Sardar Mangal Singh With reference to the answer to Starred Question No 391, asked by Mr K C Neogy on the 20th February 1946 will the Secretary of the Commerce Department please state

(a) the further lists of equipment that have been received, and

(b) the details as to how the equipment described in the three lists of capital equipment laid on the table of the House on the 20th February, 1946, as also the equipment received thereafter has been disposed of?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b) The three lists referred to were circulated by the Allied Control Council in Berlin but later the procedure regarding circulation of lists was changed. German plants declared available for reparations delivery are now placed at the disposal of the Inter-Alled Reparations Agency who circulate lists of available plants to claimant countries. Two lists have so far been received from the I A R A and most of the plants figuring in the original A C C lists have appeared in these two lists. As regards the present position in respect of allocation of plants to India, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer given to Part (b) of his Starred Question No 142

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF RELEASED ARMY PERSONNEL BY THE RESETTLEMENT DIRECTORATE

†144. *Sardar Mangal Singh (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state what percentage of the Army personnel released from the Defence forces has been re-employed as a result of the efforts of the Resettlement Directorate?

(b) Do Government intend to intensify their efforts to re-employ personnel released from the Army?

(c) Is there any proposal to re-organise the Resettlement Directorate and transfer some sections to the Provincial Administrations?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The total number of releases from the Indian Army up to the 30th September, 1946, was approximately 8,65,500. Not all the men released require employment assistance. So far 3,21,302 ex-servicemen have asked for employment assistance from the Employment Exchanges and of these 51,824 or 16 per cent are known to have been placed in

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

employment as the direct result of the efforts of the Employment Exchanges under the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment

(b) Yes, Sir Every effort is being made to intensify the drive for the re-employment of demobilised personnel Among the recent measures adopted in this connection is the setting up of the Directorate of Employment in the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment This Directorate is charged with the special responsibility of tapping all available sources of employment in the country and of stimulating the employment-creating activities of employers, both Government and private

(c) The work of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation in the Labour Department is under constant review and some reorganisation has been effected recently with a view to achieving the maximum results with the minimum cost to the taxpayer To quote one instance, the Directorates dealing with technical, vocational, disabled and women's training have been amalgamated into one common Directorate

The question of transferring some section of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation to the Provincial Administrations was recently discussed at a Conference of Provincial Labour Ministers and it was decided that for some time to come central co-ordination and control would be necessary before Employment Exchanges and training schemes are handed over to the Provincial Governments

CREATION OF A NEW PORTFOLIO TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF SCHEDULED CASTES

†145. *Sardar Mangal Singh Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state

(a) whether there is any proposal to create a new portfolio specifically to look after the interests and betterment of the scheduled classes, and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what alternative measures Government propose to take for the betterment of the scheduled classes?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No

(b) The Honourable Member may rest assured that the interests and welfare of the scheduled classes will be fully safeguarded in all matters concerning the Central Government

FORWARD POLICY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FRONTIER TRIBES

146. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal. Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state if Government intend to give up the forward policy in connection with the Frontier Tribes? If so, when?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. There is an old argument between advocates of a "forward" policy and those of a "close-border" policy on the North-West Frontier The present policy has been a compromise between the two, it is now under close and careful consideration

ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE FAKIR OF IPI

147. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state if the Government intend to end the feud with the Fakir of Ipi and establish friendly relations with him?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Government have no desire to carry on a feud with anybody and would welcome friendly relations with the Fakir of Ipi

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that the Fakir of Ipi has written to the Honourable Member asking for an interview or expressing a desire to carry on negotiations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, Sir, I have received a number of letters, some purporting to come from the friends of the Fakir of Ipi and some possibly from the Fakir of Ipi himself It is a little difficult to be

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

quite certain whether they have come from the Fakir himself or from others. In the course of these letters much has been said to the effect that they would like to have contacts and relations.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Honourable Member seen in today's *Hindustan Times* the news that the Fakir of Ipi has said to Khan Abdul Ghafoor Khan that he was prevented from seeing the Honourable Member himself during his recent visit in the tribal areas because of local political agents?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not seen this particular item of news in the paper and so I cannot say anything about it.

Seth Govind Das: Did the Honourable Member have any political talks with the political servants of the Frontier when he was on tour with respect to the Fakir of Ipi?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I had no opportunity, but the Fakir of Ipi's name came in the course of talks certainly.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The Honourable Member has said that 'possibly' the letter came from the Fakir of Ipi. What are the presumptions by saying that? Why does the Honourable Member say that it was possibly from the Fakir of Ipi?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no presumption. I said that a letter comes to me the signature on which it is rather difficult to decipher and I was not quite sure myself. That is why I said that it might be from him.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member take the House in his confidence and tell us the nature of the replies, if any, which he has sent to these letters?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have sent no reply to any recent communication. I have received some—one I think, reached me when I was in the Frontier and one subsequent to my return. To either of these I have sent no reply in writing. Orally, I mentioned to those people who said they were the friends of the Fakir of Ipi that we will be able to contact with him and to resume friendly relations.

EX-SERVICE W A C (I)S SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN CIVIL LIFE

148 *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of W A C (I)s ex-service women seeking re-settlement and employment in civil life through Government?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The total number of ex-service women, who have asked for re-settlement and employment assistance and been registered at the Employment Exchanges upto 30th September 1946 is 802. The number of ex-service women who have so far applied for training is 160.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is there any truth in the newspaper reports that the Honourable Member is intending to find suitable husbands for these W A C (I)s as an avenue of employment?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is no truth in that report. Sir, The Labour Department does not function as a matrimonial agency but if my Honourable friend will approach the Government with such a proposal, the Government will consider it.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I ask the Honourable Member what kind of training is being given to these W A C (I) girls who later on have to take to civil life?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: They are to be trained in a number of things, such as tailoring, embroidery, lace work, cookery, beauty culture, hair dressing and other things.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: As a result of this training, will the Honourable Member state how many of these girls have got the employment?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The training has not yet started.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to a beautiful piece of poem published in a local paper at Benares in which the Honourable Member is described as a prospective mother-in-law of all these W A C (I)s?

Mr. President: Dr Chatterjee, next supplementary question

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee. Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of transferring these training departments for the W A C (I)s to the Education Department who are much more qualified to give this training than the Labour Department?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram. The schemes for their training were discussed in consultation with the Education Department and whenever new schemes are to be started, they will be started after consultation with that Department.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee Is there not a great deal of overlapping and waste of money and personnel between the Education Department and the Directorate of Re-settlement which, under this training scheme do not naturally belong to them?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram. There is no overlapping at all. The whole question was discussed recently in a Conference of the Provincial Labour Ministers, some of whom were Education Ministers as well in their provinces. We are trying to co-ordinate our activities with the Provincial Governments and are trying to avoid any possible overlapping.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee Have the Education Departments of these Provincial Governments been consulted with regard to these schemes or any educational authorities not being Government servants, consulted on this most important work of training?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram As a matter of fact, so far as the training is concerned, the Provincial Governments are certainly consulted. Not only that the Provincial Governments contribute towards the cost of this training. As regards consulting non official bodies I am not certain I will enquire into the matter.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee Have any women's organisations like the All-India Council of Women or the Provincial Councils of Women been consulted on this important matter which very largely concerns and interests them?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram I presume they might have been consulted but I am not sure.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Member give an idea of the monthly expenditure that is being incurred on the training of these W A C (I)s?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram As I said, the training has not yet started.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena May I ask what are the qualifications of the Deputy Director who was appointed to give training to these W A C (I)s?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: She is a very highly qualified lady. She is a M A and holds other degrees as well. I have not got the file with me and I cannot give her exact qualifications but I am sure she possesses requisite qualifications.

SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA 77 SATYAGRAHA STRUGGLE

149 *Shri Sri Prakasa* Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) the situation in South Africa with regard to the Satyagraha struggle of our countrymen there,

(b) the nature of the assistance, if any, that the Government of India is giving to our countrymen in South Africa in their struggle, and

(c) if there has been any further correspondence between the Governments of India and South Africa with regard to the position of our countrymen there, and if so, its nature and result?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have nothing new to add to the information which is being published from time to time in the press. The passive resistance movement in South Africa is still continuing in the form in which it was started, namely peaceful occupation of land in non-exempted areas in civil disobedience of the provisions of the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act. Passive resisters continue to be arrested and charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act. Official figures show that up to the end of September 733 Indians were convicted and sentenced, and 450 had been released after serving their sentences. For the most part uniform sentences of a fine of £3 or 30 days imprisonment have been passed. Three months' imprisonment is awarded for the second sentence, and a few leaders have been sentenced to six months' imprisonment. A telegram received from the Passive Resistance Council on the 24th October says that the total number of convictions up to that date was 1,269. At a mass demonstration on the 23rd October, the opening date of the United Nations Organisation Assembly session, a batch of 323 passive resisters courted imprisonment. Recently a section of Indians in South Africa suggested a suspension of the passive resistance movement and a Round Table Conference to consider the whole position, but the bulk of the community appeared to be opposed to this approach. The movement still continues and has caught the imagination of the Indians. It is understood that it has also won the sympathy of the Africans, some of whom have actively joined the movement. Some Europeans have also supported and joined the movement.

(b) The Government of India are not sending any direct material help to the passive resisters but as my Honourable friend knows, we have taken up the whole case of our countrymen in South Africa in the United Nations Assembly.

(c) No, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: There are some people who are called coloured people in South Africa. Have they also joined the movement?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what my Honourable friend means by 'coloured people'. I suppose both Indians and Africans might be referred to as 'coloured people' by Europeans there.

Seth Govind Das: There are about a million people in South Africa, who are technically called 'coloured people' and actually are a mixture of South Africans and Europeans there. Have they also joined the movement?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not exactly know what they have done.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The so-called bantus.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the answer to part (b) of the question, may I know if while not giving any material assistance the Government of India are prepared to say that the movement is such has their moral support?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The whole activity of the Government of India ever since this movement started has been one of giving moral support for this movement.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I know how many women are imprisoned in this movement in South Africa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not give the exact numbers, but I understand that women are taking prominent part in the movement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken to publicise the progress of this movement through our various diplomatic representatives in different countries?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid the answer to that question will have to be given by my Honourable Colleague the Member in charge of Information Department.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Has the Honourable Member any information about the nature of treatment given to our prisoners in jails there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Many complaints were made of the bad treatment given in prisons but subsequently it was stated that the treatment has improved.

Seth Govind Das: Is there any such class as political prisoners in South African jails?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I do not know, Sir.

DETENTION AND IMPRISONMENT OF AFGHAN PRINCES IN INDIA

150. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the number of Afghan princes who are at present in detention and imprisonment in India

(b) the reasons for their being thus kept,

(c) the amount of money that is being paid to or spent for them and their families by Government for their maintenance, and

(d) if it is the intention of Government to release them and permit them to go back to their country, and, if so, when?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The total number of Afghan personages in India at present under restraint under Regulation III of 1818 is 26. Of these, one is under temporary detention which is likely to end shortly. The rest live in their own houses under surveillance in various parts of India.

(b) For reasons of State connected with India's international obligation to a neighbouring friendly Government.

(c) Approximately Rs. 80,000 per annum is paid by Government on account of the maintenance of these persons and the education of their children.

(d) In accordance with the principle of good neighbourliness and international practice the Government of India are under certain obligations to the Afghan Government in connection with whom the cases of these persons are in process of review. The Government of India hope that as a result some of them may be able to return if they so wish to their own country while the restrictions on the movements of others may be relaxed.

Mr Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know whether he is aware of the fact that most of these Afghan detainees receive a scanty monthly allowance of not more than Rs. 60 a month? If so, will he consider the desirability of increasing their allowance in view of the fact that it is very difficult for them to maintain themselves in these difficult times?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have placed on the table today a whole list of all the Afghan detainees and others who are paid any allowances in answer to a previous question and the Honourable Member will be able to refer to them. It is true, I think that in many cases those allowances are very small; they have become smaller and smaller because of the fact that each allowance on the death of the person is divided up among his children and the result is that in most cases the allowance is too inadequate, but my Honourable friend must understand that this matter will be considered.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Am I to understand from the Honourable Member's reply to parts (b) and (c) of my question that these Afghan Princes are being kept in custody or in detention at the desire of the Afghan Government conveyed to the Government of India and that the Afghan Government pays Rs. 80,000 that are being spent on the Princes?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I know, the Afghan Government pays nothing at all. The cost is borne entirely by this Government. Any person who is under restraint in India is kept so, because as I have stated, of international obligations, not because of our wishes in the matter.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I ask whether in the case of those Princes whose movements are restricted and who cannot earn their own living, it is not the obligation of the Government of India to pay them sufficient allowances so that they may live a reasonably decent living?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir I think it is the obligation of the Government in case of people whose movements are restricted to pay them adequate allowance.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it not a fact that an application was submitted by them before the Honourable Member took over charge and his reply to them was that "while it was not possible for him to take any steps in regard to the detention or the maintenance allowance of the petitioners until the Government of India as then constituted was completely changed, he considered that the treatment accorded by that Government to the petitioners was unjust, and unworthy andiggardly" and in view of that fact, will the Honourable Member, now that he has taken over the portfolio of this Department, consider the desirability of giving them full justice?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is referring to individual cases.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: No, Sir, all of them submitted a general petition to the Honourable Member before he took over charge and his opinion then was that the treatment given to them by the then Government of India was "unjust and unworthy andiggardly". My contention is that now that the Honourable Member has taken over charge of this Department will he very kindly see that full justice is done to them particularly increase their allowances in keeping with their old status?

Mr. President: That has already been answered.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that sometimes a husband is confined in Quetta and the wife in Dehra Dun and that at the desire of the husband, the wife's allowance is sent to him rather than to her?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should be very glad if the Honourable Member will supply me with details of this case to enable me to enquire into it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If the Honourable Member would please look into the files of his department he will find a big correspondence from me on the subject.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

151. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state whether it is contemplated to establish a separate Indian Diplomatic Service? If so, what are its rules regarding recruitment, etc.?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It has been decided that a separate Indian Foreign Service should be established. Matters of detail such as the rules for recruitment, etc., are still under consideration.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether recruitment to these services will be done by open competition?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: With regard to this matter sometime back a fairly long press statement was issued. I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to that statement. It is proposed to have recruitment for this service probably through the same channels as normal recruitment for what may be the future civil service of India, but probably also with some special courses attached to them.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is it the intention of the Government to combine this new service with the present Indian political service or amalgamate the two?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. The new service which is proposed would be entirely new, but a number of people from the existing political service will be taken into it, a number of people from other Government of India services will also be taken and a number of people outside the

services will also be taken. Quite apart from the new recruitment which will be through competitive channels, we have to get a fairly large number to start with, fairly large number of persons of various degrees of seniority and these will have to be taken from the present political service from the I.C.S. and others who are not in service today.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Then is it the intention of Government to continue a separate political service if it now exists?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The present political service consists of those employed in the Indian States, those employed by the External Affairs Department, and some people serving abroad. All these services will have to be changed completely. The foreign service will deal with all representation abroad, it has nothing to do with the Indian States. Commercial representation, diplomatic and consular—all these will be in the foreign service. So while the present political service will cease to be, as to what is to happen to the Indian States is a difficult constitutional problem with which we are not concerned now.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government give my special consideration or facilities for the inclusion in this service of those men who have rendered good service during the last five or six years and who are now being sent away but who have been reported well during their period of service? I refer specially to people in the Indian army, navy and air force.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Undoubtedly Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, before you go on to the next question I should like to be enlightened on a point of procedure. Is it within the rights of an Honourable Member to ask a sixth question as Sadur Mungul Singh has done today and intends to do every day? You already called his name five times before—he being absent at the time—and his motion had thus been finished.

Mr. President: In view of his absence no questions were asked before and so this was his first question.

NON-CO-OPERATION OF MINISTRY OF BENGAL WITH THE PRESENT (INTERIM) GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

†152. **Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal** Will the Leader of the House be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Ministry of Bengal has taken up an attitude of non-co-operation with the present Government of India (known as the Interim Government),

(b) whether Government are aware of the utterances made by the Bengal Ministers to that effect;

(c) in how many meetings or conferences or committees (whether of a formal, informal or other nature) convened or assembled at the instance of the Central Government or of the members or Departments of the Central Government and attended by representatives of Provincial Governments in September and October, 1946 the Bengal Government did not represent themselves;

(d) whether Government or the Ministry or any of the Ministers of Bengal have explained their non-attendance or non-representation in such gatherings; if so, what, and

(e) how the Central Government propose to put into operation their plans and programmes of welfare in Bengal if the Ministry of the Province continues in this policy of isolation and non-co-operation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) There is no reason to think that the Bengal Government have taken up an attitude of non-co-operation with the Government of India though certain statements have been made which may have given that impression.

(c) So far as I know the Bengal Government has been represented at meetings or conferences convened at the instance of the Government of India or of Central Departments.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having not put up the question.

- (d) Yes
(e) Does not arise

SUPERFLUOUS OFFICERS IN KARACHI CUSTOMS HOUSE

†153. ***Beth Sukhdev** (a) Will the Secretary of the Commerce Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a superfluous staff of officers is being maintained in the Karachi Customs House since 1943 in connection with the working of the import and export trade control which has necessitated incurring of huge expenditure?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken or are being taken to reduce the number of officers?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) No superfluous staff of officers has ever been maintained in connection with the working of the import and export trade control at Karachi.

(b) Does not arise, but the Staff position is reviewed from time to time.

APPOINTMENT OF SIR PATRICK SPENS, CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA AS CHAIRMAN OF CALCUTTA DISTURBANCES COMMISSION

154. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (a) With reference to the appointment of Sir Patrick Spens, Chief Justice of India, as Chairman of the Calcutta Disturbances Commission, has the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the House been drawn to the following Press statement of the Chief Minister of Bengal published in Calcutta on the 1st September, 1946:

"I am taking steps to set up such a tribunal and have already requested His Excellency the Viceroy to assist me in securing the personnel that will command the confidence of the public."

(b) Was the appointment of Sir Patrick Spens as Chairman of the Commission entirely a matter of negotiation between His Excellency the Viceroy and the Chief Minister of Bengal, or did the question come up for the consideration of the Government of India at the instance of the Government of Bengal at any stage or in any form? What was the actual procedure followed in this matter, from the initiation of the proposal, to the actual deputation or appointment of the Chairman?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) I understand that the Bengal Government approached His Excellency the Viceroy through His Excellency the Governor to secure the services of the Chief Justice of India. The Viceroy's good offices were given in his personal capacity and there was no reference to the Government of India. I have no further information.

EXPANSION AND RE-ORGANISATION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

155. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the progress made in carrying out the detailed scheme of expansion of the Geological Survey of India referred to by Dr. Ambedkar in a debate in the Legislative Assembly on the 12th March, 1945, and specially indicating the action taken for the establishment of different branches of the Geological Survey to deal with Engineering Geology, Industrial utilisation of minerals, Central mineral development, geophysical work and oil development, respectively?

(b) Is any comprehensive re-organisation of the superior administrative machinery of the Mines Department contemplated? If so, will the Honourable Member indicate the approximate time when, and the lines on which, such re-organisation is likely to take place?

(c) What opinions have been expressed by the different Provincial Governments in the matter of undertaking Central legislation for the purpose of establishing necessary control over minerals, to which reference was made by Dr. Ambedkar on the occasion mentioned above, and what is the Government's programme in this behalf?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(d) Has any action been taken during recent months, or is proposed to be taken in the near future, specially in regard to control over the prospecting for oil and the granting of concessions thereon? If so, on what lines has such action been taken or is contemplated?

(e) With reference to the Advisory Board appointed by the Government in January, 1946, to advise them on problems connected with the mineral development of the country, will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House a statement showing the various topics on which the advice of the Board has been sought and the purport of the advice tendered by them?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) A statement showing the various steps taken for the reorganisation and expansion of the Geological Survey of India is laid on the table.

(b) The Mines Inspectorate was recently strengthened by the addition of two more posts of Inspector of Mines and two posts of Junior District Inspector of Mines.

(c) The replies of the Provincial Governments who were addressed in July 1945 were generally favourable to the idea of Central co-ordination, provided the income from royalties etc. and the execution of policy was left in the hands of Provincial Governments. A fresh approach to the subject is, however, under contemplation, as the views previously expressed were in many cases those of the Section 93 administrations.

(d) The question of control over the prospecting for oil and the granting of concessions is still under consideration. It may, however, be pointed out that the responsibility rests primarily on the Provincial Governments concerned.

(e) The advice of the Board has not been sought so far on any point. The whole question of mineral policy including Central co-ordination and regulation and Central legislation is under consideration.

REORGANISATION AND EXPANSION OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

1. In order to enable the Geological Survey of India to undertake extensive exploration of the country's mineral and water resources and thus assist post-war plans for industrial and economic development, the following steps have been taken :-

(i) Fixation of the target for the staff of the Survey, the target to be reached as rapidly as possibilities of recruitment and training of new recruits admit. The first stage of expansion has already begun with the creation of some new posts and recruitment of staff. The following table shows the pre-war strength, the present sanction and the proposed target excluding the ministerial and other subordinate technical posts.

	Pre-war strength	*Present sanction	Target
Director	1	1	1
Superintending Geologists	3	10	10
Geologists	12	30	34
Assistant Geologists	10	35	80
Geophysicists		2	2
Petroleum Geologist		1	1
Mining Engineer		1	1
Deputy Mining Engineer		1	1
Chemist	1	1	1
Assistant Chemist	1	9	9

* Includes temporary posts

(ii) Creation of a temporary post of "States Liaison Officer" in the Survey with a view to securing a co-ordinated programme of geological investigations directed towards the orderly exploitation of mineral resources in the various Indian States

(iii) Expansion of the library organisation so as to ensure proper indexing of all material, and the formation of a properly designed information and publicity organisation. The steps taken in this direction are —

(a) resumption of Geological Survey of India publications

(b) opening of library and statistical sections in the Geological Survey of India Office

(c) formation of a Mineral Information Bureau to give information and advice to industries

(d) Publication of a quarterly journal called "Indian Minerals" containing articles written mainly in non-technical language on matters relating to the different aspects of mineral development in India, and short accounts of such developments in other parts of the world. The first issue of the journal will appear in January 1947

(e) Publicity in U K and other countries under consideration

(iv) Inclusion in the Geological Survey of branches to deal with mineral development, engineering and water supply problems, geophysical investigations and drilling as indicated below

(a) formation of mineral development section to carry out exploratory mining

(b) establishment of a Geophysical Section under an expert Italian Geophysicist with a staff of surveyors and an Italian Technician. Proposals for further strengthening this section are under consideration

(c) Creation of a separate drilling branch under a Drilling Expert. Proposals for, the necessary staff, purchase of the required number of drills, and the establishment of a base workshop, are under consideration

(d) Formation of a branch for Engineering Geology and Ground Water Section. The Superintending Geologist in-charge of this branch was recently placed on deputation in America to study engineering geological problems

(e) Expansion and modernisation of the laboratory. The number of chemists has been increased and a large quantity of new instruments have been ordered from abroad

(f) Placing of orders in U K, U S A, and Italy for a large quantity of equipment for the geophysical section and for the expanded activities of the Survey

The branches mentioned above will be available for two purposes—advice to the public in carrying forward their own investigation developments and mining and the actual pushing forward of field investigations to the stage at which commercial possibilities become apparent

2 Recruitment of Staff—Two factors militate against the immediate recruitment of personnel —

(i) paucity of suitable geologists and the difficulty of giving field training to a large number of recruits, and

(ii) the necessity of so arranging the expansion as to secure a balanced cadre

Although a number of posts in the different grade were sanctioned a year ago it has not been possible as yet to get the full complement, with the result that detailed surveys in certain Provinces, e.g., Orissa, Andaman Nicobar Islands, are being held up

A certain number of posts in the grade of Superintending geologist and geologist and specialist posts have yet to be filled up. Some of these have been advertised in U K and U S A and nominations from these countries are still awaited. Advertisements in India for geologists, geophysicist and petroleum geologist have produced no satisfactory results, it has been decided to re-advertise the required number of geologists during this winter

As regards Assistant Geologists, all the vacancies available for civilian candidates and a portion of the quota reserved for war service candidates have been filled up. The Federal Public Service Commission are taking steps to fill the remaining 21 vacancies reserved for war service candidates. A few temporary Assistant Geologists have also been recruited through the Commission to fill up the vacancies arising out of the promotion of permanent Assistant Geologists as Geologists

3 Training of junior officers—In accordance with the decision to send all new recruits in the Assistant Geologist grade for training abroad, it was agreed to send about 12 Assistant Geologists during each of the years 1945, 1947 and 1948 to the Melbourne University in Australia for practical training. 8 Assistant Geologists have been sent this year to Australia and they are expected to return to India after completion of training in November next. It is hoped that by 1948 geological training in the Indian Universities will have improved to the extent required

4 Geological Education—It is considered necessary to strengthen the geological faculty in the Indian Universities with a view to improve the standard of teaching in Geology so

that recruits from the Universities may be fit for service in the Geological Survey of India. To examine this question a Committee with the following personnel has been appointed —

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|---|-----------|
| (1) Dr Paria—Vice Chancellor, Utkal University (Chairman) | } Members |
| (2) Dr West, Director, Geological Survey of India | |
| (3) Dr Wadia, Adviser on Mineral development | |

The Committee has just submitted its report to Government

5 *Advisory Board to Assist the Survey*—The reorganisation of the Survey has, as one of its objects, planning of mineral development. An Advisory Board has been formed of experts to advise on a short term and long term planned policy of mineral development

6 Neither the expansion plan chalked out nor the present target figure of geological staff can be considered as final. The steps so far taken for the expansion and reorganisation of the Survey on modern lines are intended to form the first stage in its progressive development and are designed to enable it to take its place, along with other scientific organisations in the planned economy of the country

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (d) of the question, is it not a fact that control over concessions in such an important article as oil is exercised by the Provincial Governments, simply because of the failure of the Central Government to take necessary legislative authority to regulate such concessions?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Under the Government of India Act mineral development comes under the provincial field except to the extent to which regulation and development under federal control is authorised by an Act of the federal Legislature. So far there has been no such Act, and therefore the Honourable Member is quite right in saying that the responsibility is still with the provincial Governments

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the reply to part (c) where the Honourable Member said that the provinces had agreed to a measure of central co-ordination, will he refer to the question itself and see that I asked for information regarding central legislation and not central co-ordination? I should like to know whether that aspect of the matter has been brought to the notice of the provincial Governments, namely, the desirability of having central legislation, in terms of the constitution to which the Honourable Member has just referred, enabling the Central Government to assume control in regard to certain matters relating to mineral concessions and developments

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Provincial Governments were generally consulted on all the questions involved, firstly, the question of co-ordination as between different provinces, secondly, the question of regulation of mineral development on an all-India basis, then there were other questions like export and import policy, the possibility of specialised training and research, and finally the question of executive machinery to give effect to the new policy and the legislation required to give effect to the policy as a whole. Provincial Governments were consulted on all these points and a variety of opinions was expressed, some favourable and some unfavourable. But generally what Government felt was that a fresh approach should be made to this question and that approach is now in contemplation. The Honourable Member in charge proposes to have a meeting of provincial Ministers where the whole matter will be placed before them, and the policy including the execution of policy and legislation necessary for the same will be considered

Mr. Manu Subedar: I understand that Government have also approached the Indian States with a view to central co-ordination. I do not wish to embarrass the Honourable Member but is he in a position to tell the House now to what extent response has come from that quarter for an all-India co-ordination or all-India legislation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: It is also proposed to invite to this conference representatives of Indian States. I am not in a position to say what the response is likely to be

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the reply to part (e), is the Honourable Member aware of the dissatisfaction that has been expressed from time to time at the non-representative and the unsatisfactory character of the composition of the Advisory Board?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That was partly the reason why no meeting of the Board has been held

EXISTENCE OF MINERAL SOURCES OF ATOMIC ENERGY IN INDIA AND ITS CONTROL AND DEVELOPMENT

156. * **Mr. K. C. Neogy** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether existence of mineral sources of atomic energy has been proved in any part of India, and whether necessary investigation and research in the matter is proceeding at the instance of the Geological Survey of India or any other agency?

(b) Has any enquiry on this subject been received from the British Government?

(c) What is the policy of Government in regard to the control and development of such mineral sources?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Uranium and, to a certain extent, thorium are the principal sources of atomic energy according to present information

Uranium has not been found in India in appreciable quantities. The mineral monazite (one of the thorium-bearing minerals) occurs in notable quantities as beach-sands on the Travancore coast

At the instance of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, an Atomic Research Committee has been established under the Chairmanship of Professor H. J. Bhabha. It is also proposed to establish a special unit for such investigations under the Geological Survey of India

(b) The Atomic Research Committee as well as the Geological Survey of India hope to work in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy, Ministry of Supply of His Majesty's Government

(c) The policy of Government is to control and develop such resources in the best interests of India

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government been in negotiation with His Majesty's Government and have they sent any men from India in order that they may be taken into confidence with regard to the progress of research as far as it has been made already in the West? My question is need we start right from the beginning? Has Government made any endeavour to get the results of the research so far made so that we can take that as a starting point in India?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Two of our officers who had recently been to the United Kingdom have been in touch with His Majesty's Government and, as a result of discussions which they had in England, we are now proposing to have a separate unit under the Geological Survey of India under an eminent Geologist and it is proposed to send him to the United Kingdom for about six weeks and then to organize the unit in the light of whatever advice and information he may receive

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government see that this energy is utilized in constructive work and not for destructive purposes?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That Sir is the intention

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: With reference to part (b) of the reply given by the Honourable Member, is it the intention of the Government to manufacture atomic bombs in India?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That question might be addressed to the Defence Department

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have His Majesty's Government accepted the position that they will share with India the atomic research knowledge as far as it has reached there or have they made any bones about it?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That I am afraid is really a question for the Defence Department.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if he is aware that one Mr Parthasanthi was sent from here—from Dr Bhatnagar's Institute—to study the effects of atomic bombing in Japan, and if his knowledge has been made use of or he constitutes one of the members of the Research Committee?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I must ask for notice. I have heard something about it, but I am not quite sure.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know who are the members of the Atomic Research Committee?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I said an Atomic Research Committee has been established under the Chairmanship of Prof H J Bhabha. But I must ask for notice, because this does not pertain to my Department. We will have a special unit for Uranium research under the Geological Survey of India. It is proposed that this should be under Dr Krishnan who is a Superintending Geologist in the Geological Survey, but no other staff will be appointed until Dr Krishnan goes to England and decides what he is going to do about it.

NUMBER OF CONTROLS UNDER COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

157. *Mr. Vadialal Lalubhai: Will the Secretary of the Commerce Department be pleased to state

(a) the number of Controls under the Commerce Department which have ceased to be in force after the end of the War,

(b) the number of Controls which still remain in force?

(c) Whether Government propose to reduce the existing control to a minimum in the immediate future?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The Jute (Price Control) Orders, 1945 and 1946, the Jute Export Control Order 1944 and the provision relating to Oil Cakes in the Vegetable Oils and Oil Cakes (Forward Contract Prohibition) Order 1944, have been withdrawn by the Commerce Department since the cessation of hostilities.

(b) Control over exports and imports over the prices of cloth and yarn for export, over enemy trading and controls prohibiting forward trading operations in Vegetable Oils and oil seeds which are edible oils also in spices are still in force.

(c) The operation of the controls mentioned in my answer to part (b) is under constant review so as to ensure that they are not retained a day longer than necessary.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that some of the Provincial Governments by issuing Ordinances have undone the good work of the Commerce Department in withdrawing those controls?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I want notice of that question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India consulted the Legislature before withdrawing the controls and as there are now some controls still left whether they will at least now consult the Legislature before removing the controls?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There are so many articles under Control that each case has got to be examined on merits and the passing of very early orders is necessary. I think it is very difficult, if not impossible, to consult this House before issuing orders about any specific article.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India will appoint a committee of this House which will be consulted before controls on various articles are removed?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It is very difficult, as I have already pointed out in answer to the previous supplementary question, to wait until the report of a committee of the House is obtained. The case of every article is examined and it is necessary to pass early orders on the question and so it will be very difficult to consult any committee of the House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India is aware that the removal of these controls has a very serious effect on the economic condition of the people in this country, and if they are aware of that fact will they not find some method by which the Legislature will be consulted or at least a committee of the House will be consulted before these controls are removed?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It has come to the notice of Government that the removal of some controls has resulted in increase of prices. Therefore the Government is very anxious to examine each case very minutely and very carefully before orders lifting controls are passed.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is the Government aware that due to these controls there has been a lot of corruption and is the Government taking any steps to check this corruption which is on wholesale scale?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: So far as the question of meeting corruption is concerned I understand that a Bill is shortly to be introduced in the House by the Honourable the Home Member and Government is certainly alive to the need of keeping a very vigil eye, and they are keeping a vigil eye, to stop corruption as far as possible.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is Government aware of the fact that after the abolition of control on certain articles the prices have gone up four hundred times and the index prices of decontrolled articles have also gone up hundred times? Has Government looked into that matter?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I cannot say about the percentages mentioned by the Honourable Member. Government is aware that prices of certain articles have gone up after the lifting of control and Government is also of opinion that in some cases prices were unduly depressed because of the control. Where the benefit has gone to the merchant, Government has no intention to intervene in the matter but in cases where the consumer is being hit and Government finds that prices have gone up as they have in case of some luxury articles the case will be examined again for re-imposing control.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a Standing Committee for the Commerce Department and will the Honourable Member give it an opportunity to express its opinion regarding decontrolling of articles?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: On important questions which can stand over for some time, Government will consult the Committee.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Is the Government aware that the imposition of control has increased the prices in several cases. I will give one very important example handloom cloth. The price of handloom cloth has increased by 15 to 20 per cent on account of the control that has been imposed very recently.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The increase in the prices of handloom products has not taken place merely because of the imposition of control. There are several factors governing price movements and it cannot be attributed to control measures at all.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I would like to ask the Leader of the House whether this Legislature is going to have some opportunity of discussing this most important question which affects the economic life of the country during this Session?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member means the question of Government's general policy with regard to controls?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I can assure the Honourable Member that this question is engaging the attention of Government and we are very much agitated about the vicious circle into which we have been caught. On the one hand we have high prices. If we raise some other prices it leads to higher prices all round and further inflation, and that again leads to higher prices. Therefore, we have considered them very carefully. I cannot say just now if we can give a particular date for discussion of the subject but we shall certainly try to accommodate the wishes of the House in this matter.

Seth Govind Das: In cases where prices have gone up considerably, will Government think it desirable to re-impose control on such articles?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Yes, specific cases of that type will be considered for reimposing control

POLICY *re* CONTROL ON AFRICAN AND SUDANESE COTTON

158. *Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Secretary of the Commerce Department be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that controls on African and Sudanese cottons are more rigidly maintained than as visualised in the policy declared by the Commerce Member in reply to starred question No 1747, dated the 12th April, 1946,

(b) if it is still the desire of Government to be the sole buyers of African and Sudanese cotton,

(c) if so, are Government aware that this is in contradiction of its policy to licence freely foreign cotton declared by the then Commerce Member in reply to starred question No 1747, dated the 12th April, 1946, on the floor of this House,

(d) if Government have received any representations protesting against this contradiction of their declared policy, and

(e) if so, what action have they taken in this respect?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) (b) and (c) As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, the Government of India have entered into an agreement with the East African and Sudan Governments for the purchase at agreed prices of such quantities of their exportable surplus of cotton as are available for Indian Import licences can, as the result of this agreement, only be granted against export licences issued by the exporting country, and the question of the private procurement and the free licensing of those cottons does not at present arise. The policy followed with regard to East African and Sudan cottons is not, therefore, in contradiction to the statement made by my predecessor in April last.

As regards the future, the question of the continuance of a similar agreement is under consideration in consultation with the interests concerned. Government, I may assure the Honourable Member, are only anxious to ensure that the country's requirements of those cottons are made available to the consumer on the most advantageous terms.

(d) No representation protesting against the alleged contradiction in policy has been received in respect of East African and Sudan cottons.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Have the Ahmedabad Millowners not sent any representation?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No representation containing the allegation in clause (d) of this question *viz.*, the so called contradictory policy of Government is received from them. The representation made by the Ahmedabad Millowners Association is regarding the removal of import restrictions on East African and Sudan cottons, and that is being attended to.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member consider placing East African and Sudan cottons on the same footing as the Egyptian cotton?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Different considerations apply, because so far as the East African and Sudan cottons are concerned, it is considered advisable to buy on a Government to Government basis and the reports, even from the trade channels, are that it would be to the advantage of India to procure supplies of East African and Sudan cotton on a Government to Government basis, and if that is not done, it is possible that India may have to pay a higher price for this cotton.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is it a fact that due to cotton being a world commodity, the prices adjust themselves?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The report is that if Government had not made the purchases of East African and Sudan cottons on a Government to Government basis, India would have been compelled to pay a much higher price, and even now I may mention that the Cotton Import Advisory Committee has suggested that it would be to the interests of India to enter into a similar agreement for the year 1946-47 and that is under consideration by Government.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that the distribution of these cottons has been arranged in such a way that some of those mills who are using foreign cotton have been hard hit and that they are not able to stand in competition with other mills who get these cottons?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No complaint of that character has been received.

SAGO FLOUR AND THE IMPORT LICENCES ON STARCH

159 ***Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Secretary of the Commerce Department be pleased to advise—

(a) if it is a fact that import licences are being freely granted to importers of starch,

(b) if it is a fact that Sago Flour which is purely a sizing material and is not a food material is placed on free list of imports as a result of which great quantities of Sago flour are being dumped in the Indian market,

(c) if so, have Government considered the adverse effect on the nascent industry at home, and

(d) pending the report of the Interim Tariff Board, what do Government propose to do to protect the Indian Starch Industry from the new decontrolled imports of Sago flour which are thus dumping the Indian market?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to part (a) of his question No. 728 on the 6th of March last. I may reiterate for his information that imports of only limited quantities of starch are being permitted in the interests of the Textile Manufacturing Industry.

(b) Government's information is that Sago flour is not purely a sizing material, but is also used as an article of food, and this item was included in the Open General Licence in order to combat the food shortage. Exact figures as to the quantity of Sago flour imported after the inclusion of this item in the Open General Licences are not immediately available. It is not, therefore, possible to judge whether large quantities of this commodity are actually being dumped into this country. Figures of imports are, however, being collected and the point mentioned by the Honourable Member would be examined as soon as these are received.

(c) No Sir, as the question of dumping was not raised so far, the matter is, however, being investigated.

(d) The Tariff Board have been requested to suggest an interim measure of assistance that may be necessary without prejudicing their final recommendations. The Board's reply is awaited.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is the Honourable Member aware that sago pearl is food and not sago flour and that none of the sago flour has gone for food purposes?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have already mentioned that the figures are being collected and the matter is being examined.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: I would state for the information of the Honourable Member that sago flour is only a sizing article and not a food article.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have mentioned that we were advised, in consultation with the Food Department, that it may be treated as an article of food.

Mr. Vadlal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member enquire as to how many tons of sago flour went for siring purposes and now many for food purposes?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have already given the reply that the matter will be investigated.

LOSS TO GOVERNMENT DUE TO UNDERHAND PRACTICES IN THE EXPORT TRADE OF CLOTH

160 *Mr. Vadlal Lallubhai: Will the Secretary of the Commerce Department be pleased to state

(a) if Government are aware of the many under-hand practices carried on in the export trade of cloth which has resulted in a loss to the country,

(b) if Government have seen the anomaly arising out of the uncontrolled prices of cloth in free ports and at the same time the margin of profits for middlemen being stipulated by the Government at 10 per cent which has resulted in the middleman taking 100 per cent more or even higher prices in free ports and showing only 10 per cent as the margin of profit, due to the said Government regulations,

(c) if Government are aware that similar situation regarding high profits exists in many other countries also to which India exports cloth,

(d) if Government are aware that due to this anomaly the country's Exchequer is being put to considerable loss, and

(e) if so, will Government see to it that this anomaly of prices is put a stop to?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Government have no definite information on the subject

(b) By free ports the Honourable Member presumably refers to importing countries in which there is no price control on imported cloth. It is true that export price control on exports from India to such countries has been withdrawn and Government have not prescribed any definite profit margins for the middleman in respect of exports to these destinations. However, invoices continue to be checked with a view to ensuring that the export prices are not excessive. The question as to what further measures should be adopted is under the consideration of the department.

(c) No, Sir, Government have no definite information on the subject

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government consider the advisability of negotiating barter transactions with a few countries in order that India may get essential articles like food against cloth and also the advisability of taking up the export of cloth from this country as a State monopoly so that the profits may remain with Government instead of going into private pockets?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question of barter is being considered in individual cases where Government find that it will be in the interests of India to procure food from some countries. The other question raised by the Honourable Member is a very important question of policy and it will be examined.

Mr. Vadlal Lallubhai: In view of the fact that there are high prices running in other countries, will the Government consider to export this cloth themselves so that Government gets the benefit of this disparity in price?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Government are already considering the question of reducing the price at which cloth is exported to these countries and Government have taken up the question as to the manner in which that control should be imposed.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that most of the countries to which our cloth is exported do not send us any food material?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question cannot be looked at merely from the point of view of food procurements to India. When we are in a position to manufacture cloth it is the moral duty of India to supply something to the neighbouring countries who are not able to procure their supplies from elsewhere.

Seth Govind Das: Should we take it that inspite of the fact that we have so much scarcity of cloth, it is our moral duty to send cloth outside?

Mr. President: That is an argument. Order, order.

Next question. Mr. Sanyal.

MANUFACTURE OF BY-PRODUCTS OF COAL

161 *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Works Mines and Power be pleased to state

(a) the by-products of coal that have been undertaken in India (i) before the last Great War, (ii) during the last Great War, and (iii) after the last Great War,

(b) what other important and valuable by-products can and should be undertaken forthwith,

(c) what steps are being taken by the present Government so that the existing opportunities for the manufacture of by-product, are not wasted and that the collieries are obliged and helped in undertaking industrially and commercially useful by-products immediately, and

(d) whether Government are consulting scientists and experts in such matter and whether they are taking the assistance of the Indian Science Congress?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 6th November, 1946 when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

EXTENSION OF ELECTRICITY TO RURAL AND SEMI-URBAN AREAS AND NATIONALIZATION OF POWER

162 Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Works Mines and Power be pleased to state

(a) what steps are being taken for the immediate extension and popularisation of electricity in rural and semi-urban areas and for the ultimate nationalisation of power,

(b) whether it is not possible as a step towards the above, to terminate by legislation or otherwise the leases of the existing licences and to hand over the running concerns to the municipalities or other existing local bodies, as the case may be, and

(c) whether it is also not possible to reduce power rates to a maximum of three annas per unit for non-productive consumption and two annas per unit for industrial and manufacturing consumption?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) This is primarily a matter for Provincial Governments. New rural and semi-urban electrification schemes are being undertaken by most of the Provinces, notably by Madras and Bengal. The Central Technical Power Board which is under the control of the Government of India has completed a plan for semi-urban electrification covering an area of 2,500 sq. miles in Bengal to the north of Calcutta, and has a somewhat similar plan under preparation for that Government covering the area to the east of Calcutta. The Board has also been preparing a rural development project for a tract in the Central Provinces.

(b) This is not possible except by legislation of expropriatory nature.

Provincial Governments have, however, been advised to secure the termination of the existing licences by negotiation, wherever possible.

(c) It is not possible under present circumstances, to reduce rates to three annas per K. W. hour for lighting purposes except perhaps in large urban areas. On the other hand, it is understood that two annas per K. W. hour for industrial manufacturing supplies is an extremely high rate and far above the average prevailing at the present time.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it not the policy of the Government of India to investigate the question of power supply as a proposition of all-India planning?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Central Technical Power Board has been set up expressly for that purpose. But unless and until legislation is undertaken to carry out any policy of electrification, the Government of India have no hand in it. At present there is no such legislation.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it not a fact that in many cases projects of electric installation in one province have to be helped by supply of power from another province?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In that case is it left to the two provinces to contact each other the Government of India coming in for the purpose of co-ordination between the two Provinces?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Central Technical Power Board can and does help in every possible way to co-ordinate the requirements of electrical energy throughout India. Then there is also the Electricity (Supply) Bill which was introduced in this House in March last, under which it is proposed to set up Regional Electricity Boards and that Bill will certainly help in achieving the object which the Honourable Member has in view.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it not a fact that even today the matter of electricity is covered all over the country by central legislation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I believe it is in the Concurrent List.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it not a fact that the Indian Electricity Act governs the whole of the country?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir, but the Indian Electricity Act is purely a safety measure. It does not cover the question of planning, co-ordination and development. That is the object of the Electricity (Supply) Bill, 1946, which was introduced in this House in March last.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member please state whether in the matter of the proposed legislation which is coming up, the opinions of the provinces have already reached the Government of India?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The motion for circulation was unfortunately crowded out in the Budget Session and Government thereupon circulated the Bill by executive order. Certain provinces have sent in their opinions but the most important provinces like Bengal, Bombay, Madras and the Punjab have not yet sent in their opinions and they have asked for more time to express their views.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Member please state whether any province has expressed the opinion that they were competent to go on with their electricity projects without the aid, assistance or initiative from the Central Government?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir. Some of the Provinces are anxious to be allowed to look after their electricity projects themselves without any intervention from the Centre.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know whether these opinions have been circulated to all the other provinces?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I have already explained that some of the Provinces have expressed their opinions and these opinions are being tabulated. The question of their circulation has not yet been considered.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I want to know whether those opinions which have been received from some of the provinces, which have a bearing upon some other provinces, have been forwarded to all other provinces?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: No, Sir. The opinions that have already been received are being tabulated. That is all that has been done so far. We do not go on sending the opinions to other provinces as they are received.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What are the provinces that have so far given their opinions?

Mr. President: I am afraid these questions on legislation do not arise out of the present question. The Honourable Member is going into too many details.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I am asking which of the provinces have expressed their opinions

Mr. President: That does not arise out of this question

NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

163 *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for works Mines and Power be please to state

(a) the places in India where petroleum is at present available and how much of such area is under actual operation,

(b) whether the capital and the companies operating the area are Indian or otherwise,

(c) whether these companies have been asked to arrange for Indians getting facilities for training in operating processes,

(d) the policy of the present Government with regard to the nationalisation of petroleum, and

(e) if immediate nationalisation is not possible, what steps are being taken as aids to future nationalisation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) A statement is laid on the table based on information collected from Provincial Governments about three months ago. According to our information petroleum is at present produced on a commercial scale in the Lakhimpur District in Assam and the Attock and Jhelum Districts in the Punjab where the areas under actual operation are said to be about 21 sq miles and 26 sq miles respectively

(b) Government understand that they are largely British-owned

(c) The Government of India have no information, as the Provinces are directly concerned with the companies

(d) and (e) The regulation of mines and oilfields and mineral development comes under entry 23 of the Provincial Legislative List except to the extent to which such regulation and development under Federal control is declared by Federal Law to be expedient in the public interest. No such law has yet been passed. The regulation and development of oilfields has therefore been generally at the discretion of Provincial Governments. The question of formulating a general mineral policy for India including the policy for development of oilfields, is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

Statement showing the area of oil concessions granted in Provinces and States

	Exploratory permits in square miles	Prospecting licences in square miles	Mining leases in square miles
1 Assam (Assam Oil Co and B O C)	6,290 00	116 872	21 35
2 Punjab (B O C and Attock Oil Co)	57,464 70	386 17	26 94
3 N W F P (I B F Co and B O C)		1,586 38	
4 Sind (B O C)	26,154 00		
5 Tripura State (B O C)		250 00	
Total	89,908 70	2,339 422	48 29

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal. Will the Honourable Member state whether any such legislation is contemplated?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I have said that the whole question of policy is at present under consideration. That includes questions bearing on central co-ordination, regulation and control to the extent to which Provincial Governments may be willing to part with such control. The question of executive machinery to carry out the central co-ordination, regulation and control and the legislation necessary for the same—all these questions are under consideration and the Honourable Member in Charge shortly hopes to have a conference of provincial ministers, at which these questions will be discussed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Can Government tell this House whether all those people who hold concessions in oil are actually working their concessions or whether some of them are merely holding those concessions without any effort at production and if it is so, will Government take some action?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Oil concessions are of three different kinds. There are several companies which have got exploratory permits and these cover a total area of 89,908 square miles in Assam, Punjab, Sind and other Provinces. Then there is another kind of permit which is called the prospecting license. An area of about 2,339 square miles is under prospecting license in all these different provinces. Mining leases which cover actual mining operations are only limited to Assam (21 35 square miles) and the Punjab (26 94 square miles) or a total of 48 29 square miles. Actual mining is going on only in these 48 29 square miles, whereas in other areas prospecting or exploration work is going on.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether full capacity of production from these areas which are under mining leases has been developed and if not will Government take steps to stimulate production?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The truly oil bearing areas, if my Honourable friend wishes to know, are firstly a belt of rocks in North East Assam passing through Eastern Bengal to the Arakan Coast, a tract of about 800 square miles. Then there is a belt of oil bearing rocks.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What I said was this. In the areas where mining leases have been actually given—in these 48 29 square miles which my Honourable friend mentioned—I want to know whether the full capacity to produce oil has been developed. Let us say that the maximum capacity is 'X'. I want to know whether the 'X' capacity has been reached or is it only a quarter 'X' which is being produced. And if it is less than the natural capacity of production will Government try to stimulate the production of oil? That is a Central subject.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: In 1942 Government found it necessary to restrict exploration and prospecting in the interests of increased production from existing oil fields. That was a sort of moratorium established under the advice of the Central Government. Actually the Central Government have no powers in this respect, but this advice was given to the provinces and the provinces generally took that advice and established a kind of moratorium by which areas which were not actually being exploited could not be exploited. That moratorium, I understand will expire some time in February 1947. The question of policy which should be followed from February 1947 onwards is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

CONTACT WITH FOREIGN STATES IN MATTER OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

29. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether Government of India have formulated any policy for bringing this country in contact with foreign states in the matter of sports and athletics; and

(b) whether any fund has been created for encouraging individuals and clubs for the growth and development of sports and athletics?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) No Most countries leave such matters to be dealt with on a purely voluntary and non-official basis. Government however are prepared to give facilities for international contacts in the matter of sports and athletics. Primarily the Provincial Governments, and especially the Education Departments, are responsible for encouraging sports and athletics. Government are prepared to help in this wherever possible.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

PARTITION OF REFUGEES FROM CHANDPUR STATION BY RAILWAY AUTHORITIES

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the report which appeared at page one of the late city edition of the *Hindustan Standard* (Calcutta) of the 29th October 1946 stating that 20,000 evacuees—victims of lawlessness in Eastern Bengal—who have been stranded at the Chandpur Station of the B. A. Railway for want of transport facilities were forced to leave the station with 24 hours' notice,

(b) whether it is a fact that these included expectant mothers and mothers who had just given birth to children,

(c) the reasons for such action on the part of the authorities, and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Railway authorities for efficient transport and for safe shelter and accommodation and for other essential amenities of such evacuees?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) From a report received from the B. A. Railway, it appears that the number of evacuees at Chandpur, even during the peak period was never more than 15,000. Difficulties in arranging transport were not confined to the railway but were also experienced by the steamer companies, and it was impossible to clear all passengers offering at the same time.

No evacuees were given notice to leave railway premises.

(b) and (c) The Red Cross Society are taking care of expectant mothers and women who have given birth to children and accommodating them in hospitals.

(d) Strenuous efforts have been made by the B. A. Railway authorities to provide transport for evacuees from Chandpur and arrange for their comfort in consultation with the various relief organisations and with the Red Cross Society.

For the evacuation of refugees arriving by steamers at Goalundo from Chandpur special trains were run to Calcutta in addition to the normal train services, on the 16th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 24th October, 1946, and on two occasions No. 28 Down train which normally terminates at Ranaghat was extended to Calcutta.

The running of further special trains was not considered necessary as the steamers arriving at Goalundo did not carry sufficient passengers to warrant special trains being run.

As regards relief measures for evacuees, the B. A. Railway authorities have made arrangements to accommodate them in waiting sheds, in all available rooms in the railway colony and in Government camps and have formed a Committee to co-ordinate the work of the various relief committees. These committees are attending to the needs of the refugees by meeting them and conveying them in lorries to relief centres where arrangements are made to supply them with food.

The Public Relations Officer of the B. A. Railway is in close contact with private organisers of relief who have expressed their satisfaction with railway arrangements.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state, in view of his answer that the railway authorities did not give notice to leave the premises, which is the authority which gave that notice?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid I cannot answer that question, because I have no information on the subject at all. I was asked to answer the question which was put to me as far as the railway was concerned.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether it is possible for the Government of India to set up direct and independent machinery for giving relief in the matter of food, shelter and medicine to these refugees?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That again is not a question which can be answered by me.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

WITHHOLDING OF TELEGRAMS IN BIHAR ON COMMUNAL RIOTS

Mr. President: There is an adjournment motion, notice of which was received by me from the Honourable Member, Mr. Nauman, and, I believe, from Mr. Seth. The motion is to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely

"Withholding telegrams in the province of Bihar on the subject of communal riots in Bihar area."

Who has given this order for withholding telegrams? Is it the Central Government that has passed those orders?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan) Yes—the Central Government which is responsible for such orders in that area, because telegrams and telephones are central subjects.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Home Member) So far as the Home Department is concerned, no such order has been passed.

Sir Harold Shoober (Secretary, Communications Department) Sir, I can assure this Honourable House that no orders have been passed by the Government in the Communications Department or by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) Is it in the power of the District Magistrate to order the Posts and Telegraphs Department not to communicate any telegram which he thinks might create some trouble?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That would be a provincial subject. Under the provincial powers, the district magistrate has got such powers.

Mr. President: If the district magistrate has got power, as I think he has—that is why I put the question—the question does not concern the Government of India.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I say one word? Last night I booked a call from Western Court to my own house and Patna told me that they could not get through even a trunk call to my house as there was no instruction of the department itself—he did not say the magistrate or the Bihar Provincial Government.

Mr. President: That is not inconsistent with what is stated in the House. His departmental head might have instructed him under orders from the district magistrate. We need not go into speculations about that. It seems clear that there have been no orders of the Government of India and there is nothing, therefore, for which an adjournment motion can be admitted in this House.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS FOR 1943-44—*conold*

DEMAND No 6-B—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY OF
LOCOMOTIVE POWER

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 14,66,729 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 12,64,807 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 6-E—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 8,66,220 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses, Expenses of Electrical Department' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 8,66,220 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses, Expenses of Electrical Department' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 6-F—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF GENERAL DEPARTMENTS

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 29,63,033 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses, Expenses of Traffic Department' "

Mr. President: The question is.

"That an excess grant of Rs 29,63,033 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses, Expenses of Traffic Department' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 6-G—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 12,64,807 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses, Expenses of General Departments' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 22,180 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses, Miscellaneous Expenses' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 6-H—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 22,180 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses, Miscellaneous Expenses' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 14,66,729 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Working Expenses, Expenses of General Departments' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 8 —INTEREST CHARGES

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 18,508 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Interest Charges' "

Mr. President: The question is

'an excess grant of Rs 18,508 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Interest Charges' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 10 —APPROPRIATION TO RESERVE

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 18,508 be voted by the Assembly, to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Appropriation to Reserve' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 1,70,41,042 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Railway revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Appropriation to Reserve' "

The motion was adopted

CIVIL

DEMAND No 78 —INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE—(NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE)

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 83,13,633 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Capital actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense—(Not charged to Revenue)' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 83,13,633 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure on loans and advances actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense—(Not charged to Revenue)' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 81 —INTEREST FREE ADVANCES

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That an excess grant of Rs 2,54,66,133 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure on loans and advances actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Interest Free Advances' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That an excess grant of Rs 2,54,66,133 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure on loans and advances actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1943-44 in respect of 'Interest Free Advances' "

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the Legislative business

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member) Sir, I move

"That the Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes and for certain other purposes be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr N M Joshi, Mr S Guruswami, Mr R C Morris, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Prof N G Ranga, Sri T V Satakopchar, Shri D P Karmarkar, Mr Vadhval Lalubhai, Sree Satyanriya Banerjee, Sreejot B S Hiray, Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr Abdul Hamid Shih, Mr Muhammad Rahmatullah, Mr S C Joshi, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 7th November, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five "

Sir, this Bill is only an amendment Bill introducing certain changes in the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 and I shall therefore confine myself to tendering a brief explanation of the basic principles underlying the more substantial changes introduced in the Act. The provisions of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, have in the main been reproduced in the Bill. But as the arrangement of the Act would become disjointed if amendments are introduced *ad hoc*, we have considered it would be appropriate to re-enact the Act, as in this Bill, setting out the various provisions in their proper context.

The institutional changes introduced in the Bill relate firstly to the constitution of Works Committees consisting of representatives of employers and workmen, and secondly to the constitution of Industrial Tribunals consisting of independent persons who possess qualifications ordinarily required for appointment as Judges of a High Court. The functions of the Works Committees will be to remove causes of friction between the employers and workmen in the day to day working of the establishment and to promote measures for securing amity and good relations between the employer and workmen. The function of the tribunals will be to adjudicate on disputes referred to them. These two institutions I may point out, will supplement the machinery already provided for in the Act of 1929 for the settlement of trade disputes, namely, Conciliation Officers, Boards of Conciliation and Courts of Inquiry.

The two new modes of settlement of industrial disputes which will be effected by these two new institutions of Works Committees and Industrial Tribunals will be unaided voluntary negotiation and adjudication. Reference to an Industrial Tribunal will lie not only where both parties to a dispute apply for such reference but also where the appropriate Government considers it expedient, in public interest, to make such reference. Voluntary negotiation is not only by far the most satisfactory method for settling the differences between employers and workmen but, I am sure, you will agree should also be the normal method of settlement. As regards the other new mode of settlement of disputes, namely, adjudication I venture to imagine that none in this House will raise a controversy in so far as it is to be optional. But as regards compulsory adjudication as a method of settlement of disputes, I apprehend that opinion in this House may well be divided. The issue involved is fundamental and that is whether and if so to what extent, Government should intervene in industrial disputes. This, in turn, will raise the further question whether industrial disputes are purely a matter of private law of contract between the employer and his workmen. My answer, Sir, is that inasmuch as the parties to industrial disputes are no longer limited to the aggrieved workmen and the aggrieved employer, and inasmuch as the causes of the industrial dispute are not limited to breaches of the express or implied terms of the contracts of service, industrial disputes cannot be treated as matters purely within the confines of the private law of contract. Trade disputes, Sir, I submit, are in reality a recrudescence of the economic warfare between capital and labour, and in this warfare the community at large is no less affected than the employer and workmen engaged in the industry. Though trade disputes are ostensibly bipartite engagements between capital and labour the public at large is a necessary party to them especially where they affect supplies and services essential to the well-being of the community. To put it concretely, Sir, a strike in a public utility service will involve not only loss of production and profit to the employer and loss of employment and wages to workmen but will involve also loss of services and supplies to the community. Government being responsible for the maintenance of services and supplies essential to the health, safety and welfare of the community and the maintenance of national economy, it becomes imperative for Government to intervene in industrial disputes, especially where in consequence any severe hardship is entailed on the community. The case for Government's intervention in industrial disputes with a view to promoting public interest is, I submit, incontrovertible.

The question, then, arises within what limits should Government's intervention be circumscribed? Should Government content itself merely with providing machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes as in the Act of 1929 and

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leaving it to employers and workmen to make such use of it as they may wish to, or should Government go a step further and attempt to authoritatively regulate the relations between the employer and workmen where they have themselves failed to settle their differences? The Act of 1929 does not provide for the enforcement of the findings of any authority that may be appointed for the settlement of trade disputes but leaves it to public opinion as the ultimate forum to express itself on the merits of the dispute. Pronouncements of public opinion on the merits of industrial disputes, valuable as they may be for promoting industrial peace, will not often prove effective in regulating the relations between employers and workmen.

Whenever industrial relations are disturbed, the solution lies not in the imposition of artificial peace by prohibition of strikes and lockouts, but in effecting a speedy readjustment of the relations between the employers and the workmen either by agreement between them or, where no agreement could be reached, by compulsory adjudication. If, as I have submitted, Government must have power to intervene in industrial disputes, it will hardly be contested that that power must extend to enabling the Government to authoritatively regulate industrial relations where the employers and workmen concerned are unable to settle the disputes themselves. The principle underlying compulsory arbitration, is, thus, I submit, clear and unimpeachable. I may mention that more than anything else, the provisions of Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, empowering the Central Government to refer disputes to adjudicators and to enforce their awards, have enabled Government to deal effectively with industrial disputes during the war. And what is more, the results of the adjudication proceedings have in most cases proved satisfactory both to the workers and employers. The present Bill embodies the principles of Rule 81A, but in a more liberalised form. My submission, Sir, is that neither the employers nor workmen have an unrestricted right to wage trade disputes if in consequence public interests are jeopardised. And where public interests are jeopardised, I maintain that it is incumbent on Government to intervene with a view to securing readjustment of the relations between the employer and workmen, if possible, by private negotiation and conciliation and, if necessary, by compulsory adjudication.

In this connection I must explain why the enforcement of the awards of the Industrial Tribunals has been left to the discretion of the appropriate Governments. Adjudication proceedings are essentially judicial proceedings involving determination of the relative merits of the matters in dispute. Being judicial proceedings, the decisions of the Tribunals are entitled to the fullest consideration. But it is necessary to ensure that the enforcement of the decisions of the Tribunals do not involve any disturbing effects on national economy, otherwise adjudication, instead of allaying, may result in accentuating industrial strife. It would, therefore, be salutary that Government who are in a better position than Industrial Tribunals, to assess the possible effects of the enforcement of the awards of Tribunals on national economy should have discretion to decline to enforce such awards as are opposed to public interest or will have upsetting effect on national economy. I must warn that it would be wrong to assume that because the Government have the power to reject the awards, they would not give the fullest consideration to the decisions of the industrial Tribunals.

I must make it clear that in providing for compulsory adjudication our intention is not to oust or in any way minimise the importance of the methods of voluntary negotiation and conciliation in the settlement of disputes. Industrial disputes being disputes on interests rather on rights, I need hardly stress that voluntary negotiation will offer more effective and lasting solution than conciliation or arbitration. Of all the institutions for the settlement of disputes provided for in the Bill, I would myself attach the greatest importance to the Works Committees. But some others might urge that in Works Committees is the possible danger of exploitation to the betterment of workmen by association with such Committees of persons not true representatives of the workers but who are

under the influence of the employer. It is for this reason that I have not made a mandatory provision for setting up Works Committees but only an enabling provision by which the appropriate Government could set up such Committees and this will doubtless be done only where the appropriate Government is satisfied that conditions exist for proper functioning of the Committees. Next to Works Committees, I would place reliance on the conciliation machinery for promoting industrial peace. It is only where conciliation has no reasonable chance of success, that disputes will be referred to adjudication as being a necessary expedient for securing readjustment of industrial relations in establishments where disputes have broken out.

The importance we attach to conciliation as a mode of settlement of disputes is reflected in the provision that it will be compulsory in the case of all public utility services. Least advantage be taken of the reference of disputes to conciliation machinery to procrastinate with a view to wearing out the opponent or to maintaining unjustly the state of affairs as existed before the dispute broke out, time limits have been fixed for the conclusion of conciliation proceedings—fifteen days in the case of Conciliation Officer and two months in the case of Boards of Conciliation.

The principle has been well established, to quote from the statement of objects and reasons of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, that 'persons whose work is vital to the welfare of the community generally, should not be entitled to enter into a strike before sufficient time is given to examine the merits of their grievances, and to explore the possibilities of arriving at a peaceful settlement'. It would I submit, be both logical and legitimate to extend this principle so as to prohibit strikes and lockouts during the pendency of conciliation and adjudication proceedings. This Bill prohibits strikes and lockouts during the pendency of conciliation proceedings and 14 days thereafter, as also during the pendency of adjudication proceedings and two months thereafter. Power has also been given to the appropriate Government to prohibit continuance of strikes and lockouts as soon as a reference is made to a Board of Conciliation or an Industrial Tribunal. No elaborate explanation for these provisions seems necessary. It would suffice to say that the justification for these provisions lies in that the chances of settlement of dispute by conciliation or by speedy determination by adjudication will be gravely imperilled, if during the pendency of conciliation and adjudication proceedings the normal state of affairs as existed at the commencement of the dispute was not restored. Least these provisions may prove detrimental to the workers, a safeguarding provision has been made prohibiting alteration during the pendency of conciliation and adjudication proceedings of the conditions of service to the prejudice of the workmen.

I feel, I must pointedly invite the attention of the House to the enlargement of the definition of public utility service attempted in the Bill by empowering the appropriate Government to declare for a specified period any industry to be a public utility service provided that public interest or emergency so requires. The definition of public utility service as contained in the Act of 1929 being enumerative in its character is necessarily inelastic. The definition of a public utility service will to an extent depend on the state of national economy at any given time. For example, at present, when there is an acute shortage of cloth in the country, it would I submit, be legitimate to treat the textile industry as a public utility service, but when conditions return to normal and cloth is no longer in short supply, it would probably be difficult to justify inclusion of textile industry within the category of public utility services.

The industrial unrest through which the country is now passing is of unprecedented magnitude. Before we could embark on any large scale industrialisation, we must establish conditions that will ensure industrial peace. The urgency of the proposed legislation is, I submit, therefore unquestionable. I am aware of criticism often expressed that the remedy for restoring industrial peace is the amelioration of working living conditions of industrial labourers rather than any attempt to restrict the rights of the worker to go on strike. I am fully conscious of the great importance one should attach to improving of

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

working and living conditions of labour and the Central as well as Provincial Governments are actively engaged in examining and enforcing all possible measures in this direction. We have already effected by legislation reduction in working hours in factories to bring this to the level enforced in countries much more advanced industrially. Other measures relating to welfare and wages of industrial and other classes of workers are also under active consideration. It will be appreciated that such measures cannot be hurried through in a day but every effort is being made towards rapid progress.

It is my belief, Sir, that the machinery provided for in the Bill will, while protecting the public at large from the ill effects of industrial disputes, facilitate speedy redress of the legitimate grievances of the workmen and employers and thereby promote the progressive adjustment of industrial relations between the employers and workmen.

This Bill has been the result of considerable discussions between the representatives of employers, workmen and of Governments, Central and Provincial. The subject was discussed by our Tripartite Standing Labour Committee at its eighth meeting held in March 1946. A small sub-committee of the Standing Labour committee was appointed to examine the proposals in a greater detail and this sub-committee examined the proposals in June 1946. The Honourable Mr. N. M. Joshi, our veteran Trade Union leader participated in the discussions of both the Standing Labour committee and its sub-committee and I must acknowledge that we had the benefit of his views in finalising our proposals. Recently I convened a Provincial Labour Ministers' conference for finally vetting the proposals. The Bill as it is presented to you represents a reasonable synthesis of the various view points expressed on the subject by the various interests concerned. I commend to the House that my Motion be accepted.

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes, and for certain other purposes, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. S. Guruswami, Mr. B. C. Morris, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Sri T. V. Satakopachari, Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Mr. Vadialal Lubhai, Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, Sreejyot B. S. Hurey, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr. Abdul Hamid Shah, Mr. Muhammad Rahmatullah, Mr. S. C. Joshi, and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 7th November, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural)
Sir, I move

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th March, 1947."

Sir, I have listened with great interest and attention to the speech just delivered by the Honourable Member for Labour. He has conveniently omitted to point out the urgency for this measure and why he is so anxious that this measure should be pushed through so soon, particularly because he has got at his disposal section 89-A of the Defence of India Rules which has been extended till the end of March 1947. I do not wish at this stage to go into the merits of this Bill. I only want to point out that there is no necessity why this Bill should be rushed through in such a hurry as has been done at present. It was only four days ago that Honourable Members of this House received copies of this Bill. We have had no sufficient time to go through the Bill. I am sure neither the Employers organisations nor the workers organisations have had an opportunity to go through the provisions of this Bill and to see what these are. As a matter of fact, I am surprised that he brought forward the motion for Select Committee the report of which must be submitted by 7th November. In Bombay, a similar measure like this was brought forward and rushed through in spite of the opposition of the Labour members of the House. Mr. Dange and Mr. Mirza Akhtar. I am sure that a similar performance is going to be repeated here. From the list of amendments that I see on the agenda paper following mine, I find that labour members in this House also have tabled similar amendments which clearly show that this measure is not going to be a popular one.

They are as keen as we are that this Bill should be circulated and opinions invited not only from employers' and workers' associations but from all public bodies, particularly the consumers. I am surprised to find that the consumer has no voice when decisions are reached in the industry as a result of the adjudicator's award. Even in England in the Wages Board representations are given to consumers in addition to workers and employers. The Trade Unions Bill which was yesterday referred to Select Committee took three or four years before it was so referred, and now a Bill like this which contains 40 clauses is being rushed through in such a great hurry that I fail to understand why it should be so rushed through. I am sure the Honourable Member will agree that nothing will be lost if the Bill is circulated and opinions invited. I may also point out to the Labour Member that in spite of statutory prohibition by law, strikes have taken place. It is the duty of Government to go into the root causes of strikes and not simply to prohibit them under the law. The Trade Disputes Act gives ample machinery to investigate trade disputes and conciliate the parties in dispute. This Act has not been fully exhausted and I see no reason for bringing in this new measure.

Sr, I do not wish to go into the merits of the Bill, but I should like to refer to clause 3 which refers to the Works Committee. No details are mentioned at all, their formation may be good or may be bad. But this matter requires very careful consideration and no hasty legislation is necessary. I am sure the Honourable Member will agree with the feelings of this House that the Bill be circulated and public opinion invited before giving it effect. The Bill should be carefully considered as it is a very important measure.

Mr President: Amendment moved

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th March, 1947."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, although the previous speaker has moved his motion for circulation I propose to move my motion also for circulation. The difference between his motion and mine is that he expects that the Muslim community will have sufficient time to consider this important measure and send their opinions by the 28th March 1947. But I myself feel that the principles of this Bill are so fundamental and will affect the life of the working classes of this country, specially their trade union organisations, to such an extent that a hasty consideration of this measure will be harmful. I therefore move

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st October 1947."

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may stop here and resume after Lunch

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr President When we adjourned for lunch I was saying that I had asked for a longer period for consultation with the Trade Unions in this country as regards the provisions of this Bill. Sir, this Bill contains two fundamental principles which are new to the peacetime labour legislation in this country. These two principles the illegalization of strikes and compulsory arbitration vitally affect the interests of the working classes and also the trade union movement in this country. They are of life and death importance to the movement. I myself being of cautious nature and being slow in my thinking capacity, I take time to come to a decision on matters of this kind. Moreover, I am very anxious that the labour movement in this country and the working classes of our country should not come to a hasty decision on this question. If we once take a wrong decision on these most important questions, it will be very difficult for us to undo the harm

[Mr N M Joshi] which may be done I am very anxious that the Bill should not be hastily passed Sir, the Honourable Member said that he had consulted the employers and the workers through the Tripartite organisation It is true that I attended those meetings and had an opportunity of discussing some of these questions in those meetings But, Sir, in those meetings the proposals of the Government of India had not taken a definite shape These meetings discussed some vague proposals, and it is for the first time I saw them in their definite shape when the Honourable Member introduced this measure only three or four days ago Sir, it is for that reason that I do not want this legislation to be hustled I am hoping that the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill will see the reasonableness of what I have stated, and will agree to the motion of circulation which I have made In the interest of the Government it is better that people should come to a conclusion on this subject after mature thought If unfortunately he does not agree to my proposal, it will be my painful duty, and a very unpleasant duty it would be, to oppose the motion which he has made this morning, namely the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee I assure you, Sir, this is a very painful duty to me For the first time in the history of our country we have a Government which, with some justification, we call 'National Government'. It is also in some way a representative Government because they have representatives of the National Congress, representatives of the Muslim League and, we are having two representatives of the Scheduled Castes We are therefore very glad that such a Government has been established at the Centre and we welcome this Government with all our heart Therefore I consider it to be very unfortunate if it falls to my lot to oppose an important measure brought forward by this Government But, Sir, the Honourable Member himself has admitted that this is the measure on which there can be difference of opinion, and there can be very honest difference of opinion on it He holds his views very strongly, I hold my views very strongly, and if it becomes necessary for me to oppose his motion it will be an unfortunate thing, but if I am to be true to my conscience and if I have to act upon my own judgment, Sir, I shall have to do that unpleasant and painful duty

Sir, I stated that these two principles which are incorporated in this legislation are new to the peacetime labour legislation of our country It is true that both these principles in some form were incorporated in the war time Defence of India legislation, but, Sir, that legislation was introduced in this country against our wishes We were not a willing party to that legislation When the legislation comes before this House we have to consider the whole subject fully and, if possible, approve it, otherwise if we consider that it is not in the interest of the working classes, we have to oppose it

Now, Sir, what happens is this Illegalization of strikes and compulsory arbitration gives power to Governments to prevent strikes and to get conclusive decisions as the Statement of Objects and Reasons has stated and the Governments feel that their work is made easy on account of the great power which they possess over the lives of the working classes Sir, the Governments in this country enjoyed that power over the lives of the workers for the last six years And you know the nature of Governments, whether it is a Congress Government or a National Government Their nature is that if they once taste power, they are unwilling to give it up

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European) All Governments

Mr. N. M. Joshi: All Governments have tasted power They have the power to prohibit strikes They have the power to impose decisions on the working class and now they are unwilling to part with that power In my judgment, the need for such a legislation has not been made out It is not that in this country there is no legislation at all to provide for conciliation, to provide for some kind of enquiry into these disputes The Honourable member said that the community has a right to intervene I saw that the community has a right and duty to intervene and that right has been given to

the community by the Act of 1929. Unfortunately, Sir, that Act of 1929 was not even tried sufficiently in this country. I would like the Honourable Member to give some figures regarding the use made by the Governments in this country—the Government of India or the Provincial Governments—of the Act of 1929 during the last 17 years. During the last 17 years I am quite sure there might have been hundreds, perhaps thousands of strikes. I want the Honourable Member to tell me during how many strikes the 1929 Act was used by any of these Governments. Sir, I do not possess exact figures, but I am quite sure that not even during these 17 years was that Act used 170 times.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Now they are prepared to use it with a vengeance!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, that is my complaint against the Government. They possessed legislation. They did not make use of that legislation and they complain that the legislation has failed and is not effective. How could it be effective if you do not make use of it? Sir, the Act of 1929 has not failed in that sense. Our Act of 1929 has been based upon British legislation mainly as regards the conciliation machinery. Now, in Great Britain, industrialisation has gone on on a much larger scale and for a much longer period, and if Great Britain could do it with the powers which the British Government possessed during the last 50 years, and if they could deal with industrial unrest in Great Britain, I think a newly industrialized country like India could have easily done with that legislation. We should not have needed any more legislation, but that legislation was not used. Secondly, Sir, if that legislation has failed, it has failed for some other reason. The Governments in this country did not, not only not apply that legislation, but did not make proper use of that legislation. That legislation provided for conciliation machinery and conciliation officers. Now, Sir, the Provincial Governments appointed Conciliation Officers—young men of 25, paying Rs 150. Do you expect a Conciliation Officer getting Rs 150 and of 25 years of age to succeed in bring about a settlement between such powerful men as my honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and some others?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces Non-Muhammadan Urban). Like yourself!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, the machinery was wrongly used. The Government did not like to appoint conciliation officers who had experience and who could succeed in their work. Secondly, under the Act of 1929 they could have appointed a permanent Court of Enquiry so that the machinery could have been used as often as the Government of India wanted. Is there any province where a permanent Court of Enquiry has been appointed? There would have been no difficulty in your appointing such a Court of Enquiry. But you did not do it and now you complain that the Act of 1929 did not succeed. Sir it is not the fault of that Act. I know that there are defects in that Act. That Act also under certain circumstances make certain strikes illegal. I did not like those provisions. But for the purpose of conciliation that machinery is quite suitable. That machinery has been found useful for its purpose in a country like Great Britain and I have no doubt that if we had made proper use of that machinery it would also have proved useful in our country.

The Honourable Member in pointing out the necessity for this legislation, stated at present our country is going through unprecedented unrest. I am aware Sir that at present there is industrial unrest in our country but it is not due to the lack of machinery to settle disputes. That unrest is due to this fact that during the war the working classes in this country suffered terribly. After the war the suffering continues. Even in countries like England where there was actual war prevailing, the real wages of the working class during the war period went up. In our country, during the war, real wages went down. Nominal wages increased no doubt, but the real wages went down. The real wages are down even now, more than a year after the war had ended.

Sir Cooasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official). Not in all industries?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In all industries, I say Sir, leave aside wages. What is the position of housing in our country? Have you any idea how many people are lying during nights on the streets of Bombay for want of housing accommodation? What has been done since the end of the war to provide housing for those people who have no room to live in? Not only that, I will go further. The war ended and some of the factories which could be kept going if they had been adapted for peace-time production, have now been hastily closed down, with the result that hundreds, I would say, thousands of workmen are being thrown on the street. Sir, the working class in this country may be ignorant, may be illiterate. But they have a loyalty to each other and it is this loyalty to each other that keeps them going. And the unrest that we see in our country is due to these causes. Besides that, Sir, the success which the Allied Governments obtained in the war have created hopes in the hearts of people all over the world, especially when working classes in India see that in Great Britain, even during the war, the Government took steps to provide greater social security, and where measures of social security had existed to strengthen those measures of security. They did that even during the war. The Beveridge Report was prepared during the war and even before the war ended they had taken steps to see that these proposals for social security, for providing houses, etc. were considered and began to be carried into practice even during the war. Does the Honourable Member in charge of this department know that today the British people are receiving increased benefits out of the social security measures? What have we done in our country? We have made speeches. The members of the old Government have made speeches suggesting that the Indian workers should have greater social security.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: But the birds have flown away!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Some of the members of the present National Government may have also made speeches but people do not live on speeches. They want action.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Measures are coming very soon.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Those measures may be coming but today before those measures come you take power into your hands to take away from the working classes the only weapon which they possess by which they can secure their objective.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Only regulating its use.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I consider that if there is unrest in this country, that unrest is a healthy one that will lead to the improvement of the condition of the working classes. Moreover I feel that the extent of that unrest is exaggerated if you consider the size of the whole country. I want the Honourable Member to give me figures to enlighten us. How many people will come under the purview of this legislation in all? In my judgment this Bill will affect the lives of not less than one crore of working class people in this country, perhaps more. I am sure the number will be larger. There are no doubt strikes in this country but I want to know what is the average number of people who are on strike daily in this country. The number will be extremely small.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Wherefrom does the Honourable Member get his figure of one crore?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Out of a population of 40 crores!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Out of 40 crores I gave a modest figure.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: But this is not according to the Census Report?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No. But I gave a modest figure, being a modest man.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The figure is not modest but on the other side

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The unrest is exaggerated. We have not got such an unrest as we try to make out. A few thousand people are sometimes on strike. To take the U S A there is greater unrest there than we have in our country and therefore that there is unrest in this country is no justification for hustling this kind of legislation.

I stated that there are two fundamental principles underlying this legislation. The first is prohibition of strikes and the second is compulsory arbitration. I shall take strikes first.

There are people in this country who have a wrong notion of the character of a strike. They consider that a strike is something horrible, heinous or abnormal. I do not consider that a strike is an unnecessary or abnormal activity. A strike is a cessation of activities in common with our friends and that is being done by all kinds of people, not alone the working classes. (Interruption by Mr P J Griffiths) As my friend Mr Griffiths says, even shops close and barristers have their holidays. Cessation of activity is a normal human activity, not an abnormal one, when we find that the conditions of life and work are not satisfactory to us. A man goes to a shop and he finds that an article is more costly than he is prepared to pay for. He returns from the shop and nobody calls it a strike.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: If everybody does it it will be a strike.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Therefore a strike is not an abnormal activity. It is the normal activity of human beings who are dissatisfied with their conditions. So we need not be horrified when we see a strike. Let me assure all my friends in this legislature that although the working classes resort to strike as other classes of people do, whatever the other classes of people may do, the working classes do not go on strike without thinking of the consequences. They go on strike when they find that other means of obtaining redress have failed. You may think whatever you like of the working classes in this country but they are not such great fools that they do not realise that if they go on strike they are the first people to suffer. Their wages stop and there are not many occasions on which strike pay has been given in this country. The working classes realise that if they go on strike they will suffer more than others. If they go on strike, it is because they find that the employers are not susceptible to ordinary arguments. They also go sometimes on strike because the Government will not help them in negotiations or in coming to a settlement unless and until they go on strike. I have seen employers willing to negotiate when the workers go on strike. I have seen governments willing to intervene when the workers go on strike. But I have found in my experience of many years that Governments refuse to intervene when the workers make an ordinary request. I have seen employers refusing to negotiate when they find that the workers are not strong enough to go on strike. Therefore the workers go on strike, because, in the first place, they find that without going on strike they will not get a chance of negotiation and they resort to strike only as an ultimate weapon.

If any assurance is needed by anyone in this House I may assure him that I myself do not approve of the policy of going on strikes. I am a man of peace. I would like to have my grievances settled without going on strike, if possible. I shall avoid strike as much as I can but if strike becomes inevitable, what can anybody do? People complain that in this country especially, people go on lightning strikes, strikes without notice. Let me assure you again, as a matter of policy I do not support the working classes going on strike without notice. But you must remember that it is not always in the hands of the workers to give notice. At times they suffer from an injustice which they find it difficult to bear and go on strike without waiting for a notice. I do not approve of going on strike without notice, but we must remember that going on strike or cessation of activities without notice is

[Mr N. M. Joshi] only a civil liability. When we pass legislation making strikes illegal on the ground that people go on strike without notice, we forget the fact that not giving notice is only a civil liability, and when we make strikes illegal on the ground that people go on strike without notice, we create a criminal offence out of a civil liability. There is no justification for this. If going on strike without notice is a civil wrong or a civil liability, the workers do not propose to evade that liability. They have never said they are not liable for the civil wrong which they have done. But you cannot be justified to turn that civil liability into a criminal offence. Now, we have a Bill in which not only strikes without notice are made illegal, but even strikes with notice are made illegal. If strikes take place during conciliation proceedings which may last for any length of time, even for a year or for two years.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Two months

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The strike becomes illegal. My honourable friend Mr Gadgil for whom I have great esteem tells me that the strike will become legal after two months. Is that what he says?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I will say what I want to say after you finish.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I can only say that, if he had stated two months, he should read the Bill again before he speaks. The Bill provides for a period of four months maximum for a conciliation in a public utility service. But if a worker happens to be employed in a non-public utility service, you can appoint a board of conciliation and make a strike illegal even if that board takes one year to complete its work, so that the poor man has no chance of going on strike on any day. This is the Bill which has been placed before us.

There is another point which I want to stress as regards making strikes illegal. What is our object in making a strike illegal? We want that a man who is not willing to go to work should go to work, and if he does not go to work, he will be threatened to be sent to jail. I want to ask Honourable Members of this legislature whether this is not a form of compulsory labour. That a man is asked to go to his work against his wishes by the threat of being sent to jail if he does not go to work, I consider, is a form of compulsory labour, and if you will bear with me, compulsory labour has an element of slavery in it, is a form of slavery. I should have thought

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: During the war it was there.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I feel that to make strikes illegal is to introduce in some indirect way a form of compulsory labour, and if I may use that unpleasant word, some form of slavery. I would like therefore that this legislature should not agree to that principle. While justifying his Bill, the Honourable Member did not say much about converting ordinary strikes into criminal offences, but he said something about converting strikes being a criminal offence in public utility services. I recognise that there is some difference between an ordinary industry and a public utility service.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: There is no compulsory labour there?

Mr N. M. Joshi: I shall come to that. But I feel that in principle there is nothing wrong even if a man working in a public utility service says that he would go on strike if he finds that the conditions are not satisfactory. I am, however, prepared to make an exception in those cases where on account of a man's going on strike human life is endangered, human life is made unsafe. I am prepared to consider such work as of public utility. But if you read the Bill any industry can be considered or can be converted into a public utility by the fiat of the government. The government has to say that such an industry is necessary in the interests of the public and it becomes a public utility. This word 'public utility' has been abused by the Government of India. A wrong interpretation has been put upon it. Public utilities are necessary not only in India, they are necessary everywhere. In

our definition of public utility we are including railways. In England, compared to our size, there is a larger railway system than in India. But in England the railways are not regarded as public utilities, while here every railway is a public utility.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded District and Chittoor Non-Muhammadian Rural) Are they not?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Every steamship is a public utility and if we adopt the Bill which the Honourable Member is asking us to adopt, anything can become a public utility. I think that word has been wrongly used.

Secondly, if a service is a public utility it should be really public. But if you read the Bill of the Honourable Member, an electric work which is being conducted not in the interests of the public but for profiteering, if you will allow me to use that word, even that undertaking is to be considered as being a public utility. You may run an electric work and make huge profits by using that electric power not in the interest of the public but for some other industrial purposes (for producing exmuries for the rich). Even that will be included as a public utility according to the definition given by the Honourable Member. I can understand a public utility that is a real public utility, but if you say that any electric undertaking any steamship company or any railway is to be a public utility, I cannot understand it. Moreover a public utility must not only be for the public benefit but must be conducted by the public and owned by the public. I can understand your saying that a service is a public utility if it is controlled by, if it is owned by and if it is managed by the public and if it is run in the interests of the public. But that is not what you are providing for. I am not prepared to give the power to the Government to create any service a public utility.

Then, Sir, the Royal Commission on Labour had given some thought to this question of public utility. They found in the Act of 1920 some restrictions were placed upon the power of the working classes to go on strike, without a compensating advantage. The Royal Commission therefore recommended that if you restrict the right of the workers in public utility services to go on strike you should give them some compensating advantage. Is it the fault of the man that he takes work in a public utility service? We say that a man who works in a public utility service is a noble man, is doing essential work and therefore we restrict his freedom. I know when sweepers in municipalities go on strike many people say that the sweepers' work is a noble one. It keeps towns and cities pure and therefore we shall not allow them to go on strike. Therefore the Royal Commission recommended that if you restrict the freedom of workers in public utilities at least you should give them some compensating advantage. I know that the Honourable Member has not entirely forgotten that point of view. I am glad of that but the provision which he has made falls much short of what the Royal Commission would have expected him to do. What he is providing is that his conciliation officers shall consider the grievances of these classes. If he is taking power to appoint boards of conciliation, to appoint tribunals of arbitration, why should he not take upon himself the responsibility of telling the sweepers in the municipalities and workers in other public utilities that if they have a grievance the Government takes upon itself the obligation of having your grievances arbitrated upon or conciliated by boards of conciliation. Has he provided that? (*Sjt N V Gadgil* Is it barred?) I said it is not provided. The two things are not the same. A lawyer like my honourable friend should understand the difference. It is open to the Government to appoint a board of conciliation, to appoint even an arbitrator but that is not what the Royal Commission recommended. The Royal Commission recommended that if you take away a man's freedom if you restrict his freedom give him a compensating advantage, namely, let the Government take upon itself the obligation, not the discretion, to appoint a board of conciliation or a tribunal to investigate into the complaints. The Government of India does not seem to be prepared to do that.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Make it obligatory

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I shall come to that. I have finished with strikes in ordinary industries and in public utility concerns. I shall now come to the idea of compulsory arbitration. Nobody can be against the principle of arbitration, that is settling our disputes by peaceful negotiation, by discussion. It is a right method of settling differences. Is there any class of people besides the working classes upon whom we place that obligation of resolving our differences by arbitration and not by any other method? Have the Governments in the world accepted that idea of arbitration? If they had, there would have been no war and we would not have needed large armies to be maintained. Is that principle made obligatory upon others? It is not. Why then throw the responsibility of maintaining peaceful atmosphere in the country upon the poor working classes? Why impose the principle of non-

3 P M violence upon the working classes, while the others are not prepared to accept it? I stand by the principle of non-violence but I refuse to stand by that principle while I have no means of redressing my grievances. It is all very well to talk of compulsory arbitration and peaceful negotiations but these require certain necessary conditions. Take our own case of industrial disputes. If you want to introduce compulsory arbitration there, the two pre-requisites are that there must be impartial arbitrators. There must be impartial arbitrators and impartial governments to appoint them. Without these, you have no right to impose compulsory arbitration on the working classes. I do not wish to speak ill or against any party or any Government but it will be admitted that under the present circumstances it is not very easy to get men who are free from class feeling. It is not easy to get even Governments which are free from class consciousness. The legislature was not elected by a working class electorate. It is for this reason that we do not like compulsory arbitration. In many countries where the workers understand their interest, they are against compulsory arbitration. It is for this very reason that the British working classes have been against compulsory arbitration for a very long time and they have not yet accepted the principle of compulsory arbitration although they have their own Government to appoint the arbitrators. You may have heard about Sydney Webb (Lord Passfield) who is a great authority on labour matters and he is not an extremist or a communist. He was a member of Government in England. He has stated very clearly that even in England it is extremely difficult to get an arbitrator who is free from this class feeling against the working classes. Professor Tawny, another very moderate writer, has stated very clearly that it is almost impossible to get people—my friend Mr. Griffiths suggested that word to me—to be impartial arbitrators. It is for that reason that the British labour movement has always stood against the principle of compulsory arbitration. This principle of compulsory arbitration was considered very carefully by the Royal Commission on Labour and they came to the conclusion that the Government of India should not introduce the principle of compulsory arbitration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) What about Australia and New Zealand?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I am asked. What about Australia and New Zealand? I have admitted myself that these are controversial questions. There are two views on this question. Some people have adopted compulsory arbitration, but countries like England have not. Countries like England have developed industries to a much larger extent than Australia or New Zealand have done. England has larger and longer experience than both these countries have. If we are to have a safe guide in this matter, I would certainly make Great Britain as a safer guide than either Australia or New Zealand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Australia had Labour Ministry before the last war.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not therefore prepared to accept this principle of compulsory arbitration. Has the Government of India faith in compulsory arbitration? I have seen people proclaiming faith in prohibiting strikes and

in the principle of compulsory arbitration. Whoever those people may be, it is not the Government of India which has faith in the principle of compulsory arbitration.

Mr. President, you are a lawyer and you know what arbitration is. If you have faith in the arbitration, that faith is to be indicated by your being willing to accept the award. That is faith in arbitration. If you are prepared to accept the award of the arbitrators, certainly you have faith in arbitration. Has the Government of India that faith in the principle of arbitration? If they have that faith in the principle of arbitration, it is not shown in this Bill. What does the Bill provide for? The Bill says that the Government of India will appoint Tribunals for arbitration. The Tribunals will report and then what? Then, the Government of India will decide either to reject the award.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: or to accept it

Mr. N. M. Joshi: or to accept it wholly or in part. Is that your faith in arbitration? Have you ever heard of an arbitrator's award being rejected? I can even understand that, but have you ever heard that the arbitrator's award can be mutilated by the Government? You are providing that not only you will reject the arbitrator's award but you will mutilate it. You will accept it either wholly or in part. Is that your faith in arbitration? It is easy for the Government of India to talk of the wholesome principle of compulsory arbitration. It is a peaceful method. I told you I believe in it, but it is not easy to accept it today. But the Government is fond of power and they are prepared to impose it upon the working classes and not upon themselves.

Sir Cowasji Jahangir: The same was the attitude of the previous Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I am not one of those people who make a difference between this Government and that Government. I welcome this Government because it is a national government. I welcome this Government because it is a representative government.

Shri Sri Prakesh (Benares and Gorakhpur Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) It is an absentee Government as you can see from the empty official benches.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: But, Sir, my confidence stops there. Where a Government makes a mistake in labour matters, it is my duty to point it out and tell them that they are wrong. This Government has no right to impose the principle of compulsory arbitration upon the working classes in this country. Consider what the Government is proposing. Suppose there is a strike on account of the fact that 20 men have been dismissed by the Manager of a factory and that matter goes to the arbitration. The arbitrator decides that all these 20 men were wrongly dismissed by the employer and then the report goes to the Government of India. What will the Government of India do? The Government of India may say that this arbitrator is a damned fool these men were rightly dismissed. But if they do not go so far, they may say that out of 20 men, one man was rightly dismissed, but 19 men were wrongly dismissed. Therefore, the Government of India will say that we impose this settlement on you. We decide that one man was wrongly dismissed and he should be re-instated, but the other 19 men, whom the arbitrator recommended as being wrongly dismissed, are not wrongly but rightly dismissed and therefore they must go out of work. Not only that, but if the workers want to go on strike, they cannot do so because the Government have accepted the arbitrator's award in part. They can say: "We have decided that out of 20 men dismissed, one man was rightly dismissed and therefore we have accepted in part the award of the arbitrator. Therefore, the settlement is binding on all the workers for one year and they cannot go on strike during that period." This is the sort of law which we are asked to pass.

Mr. President: Order, Order I do not wish to interfere with the line of argument which the Honourable Member is following, but looking to the details in which he is going at the present stage, I must invite the attention of the Honourable Members of the House to the limitations of this debate. There is a motion for reference to the Select Committee and there is another motion for circulation and there are two different dates given. The main point, to my mind, appears to be to make suggestions to the Select Committee as to the point on which it may give its consideration and the other point would be to point out such salient features in the Bill as require a longer time for giving consideration without going into the merits of each at any length on this or that particular view.

The whole question of labour policy is not under discussion. If we were to enter into details on the principle of arbitration or other principles in the Bill, then it will become a very lengthy debate, so far as the Motion with the amendments before the House is concerned. The Honourable Member will be perfectly in order in referring to various points of importance pointing out strongly and succinctly the points of difference, honest differences,—or differences whether honest or otherwise and he is entitled to point out that more time is therefore required for consideration or that more time is not required and that the matter may be referred to Select Committee. That would be the scope of discussion that can be permitted at this stage. Otherwise the debate will drag on indefinitely if we were to go into the various problems arising out of the principles in the Bill.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I have always been an obedient Member of the Assembly prepared to take the hint from the Chair. I was not looking to the clock and that is my mistake. If my Motion for circulation is not accepted, I propose to oppose this Motion for referring the Bill to the Select Committee. I shall have to oppose this Motion, and therefore there is no point in my making suggestions to the members of the Select Committee. I shall not however argue with you on that point at all.

I shall now within a brief period of time point out one or two other defects of this measure. Sir, I have done with this principle of compulsory arbitration and also illegalisation of strikes. The next point that I want to state briefly is that the period during which the conciliation should proceed, the period during which the tribunal should proceed with its work is either too long or unlimited. If an industry is a public utility service, then the proceedings for conciliation may last for four months, but if the case goes to a tribunal there is no time limit for the tribunal to finish its work. After the tribunal finishes its work, then the Government may impose a settlement for one year. Now, Sir, that makes the period indefinite. The Government may make the strike illegal for an indefinite period, in any case not a reasonable period. The Government proposes four months for conciliation, the tribunals period is unlimited. If conciliation has taken four months, let us assume that the tribunal may take eight months so that one year will be passed in conciliation and arbitration and then one more year will be added by Government for the period of imposing this settlement. Sir, this makes a strike practically impossible, but this is about a public utility service which the Government has treated with a light hand and perhaps generously. As regards ordinary industries, the Government has set no limit during which the conciliation proceedings must be ended. The Board of Conciliation may take even a year to finish its work. There is nothing in the Bill to prevent their doing that. The Board of Conciliation may take one year or two years. What is called a Tribunal of Arbitration or a Court of Arbitration may take one year or two years. After that the Government may reject, accept in part and if they accept any part, also they can impose that settlement for a year or more. Sir, the Government will themselves admit that this period is too long.

I do not wish to go into other similar details, but I wish to make one or two general remarks. The first remark which I want to make is this.

greatest defect of this legislation is that it is a discriminatory legislation. If a community is put to inconvenience by the cessation of work, then the community may want to punish the cessation of the activity, but what about the other classes? I can understand your passing legislation which makes it impossible for any class of people stopping their activities which is in the interest of the public without giving notice or without going through some sort of conciliation. But that is not what you are doing. I do not know, Sir, whether you read the daily papers. I read only this morning in the *Hindustan Times* that Mr Sarat Chandra Bose is calling a meeting to organise a general strike in Calcutta. If Mr Sarat Chandra Bose who was once a Member of the Interim Government only a few days ago could organise the citizens of Calcutta, the traders and merchants and all others for a general strike, I am quite sure the community in Calcutta will be inconvenienced. The words 'general strike' are not my words, they are used by the *Hindustan Times*. Will the closure of the shops in Calcutta not inconvenience the community? Are you making that illegal? If you are not making that illegal, why are you passing this legislation against the working classes? Is it because that you cannot very well pass legislation making the closure of shops, especially organised by Mr Sarat Chandra Bose illegal and you can easily make it illegal if the poor working classes go on strike, not even a general strike, but even an ordinary strike?

Sir, this legislation is discriminatory. My Honourable friend comes from a class in which 90 per cent of the people are wage earners. This legislation is going to apply to them. He may complain about discriminatory treatment to his people, but he should not become responsible for passing legislation which is discriminatory in its character. If you want to make strikes illegal, if you want to make cessation of activities of any class of people illegal, make it illegal for all people. It is wrong for people to say the sweepers work is essential for the community. The sweepers do a public utility service, very useful work to the community and therefore we pass this legislation restricting their activity. The shopkeepers are not so useful and therefore we leave them free to close their shops. The lawyers can organise a strike, but there is no legislation against them, because the lawyers profession is not noble whereas the sweepers profession is noble. That is the sort of argument of the Government. This is a discriminatory legislation and I submit the Honourable the Labour Minister should be the last person to promote a legislation making this discrimination. Sir, my last point is this. He defended this legislation on the ground of the community having a right to intervene in industrial disputes in the interest and the welfare of the community. I agree to that principle. But I would suggest to him that if the community has a right to intervene in the interest of the community itself, has not the community certain duties towards people who are engaged in the industry, specially engaged in public utility services? If you have duties towards them I suggest that you should fulfil those duties first. In most countries in the world the working classes today are given better conditions of life and work than in India. Our hours of work are longer, our housing is bad, our sanitation in the factories is bad and our sanitation in houses is worse. These have to be remedied first. Then again in other countries they have introduced measures of social security, they have got health insurance and unemployment insurance, old-age pensions and widow's pensions, and all kinds of accidents have been provided against. I suggest to the Honourable Member that if he claims that the community has a right to intervene in disputes between workmen and their masters the community should also remember its duties, and I suggest that the duties should be performed first. Let the Honourable Member introduce social security, let him improve the housing, let him improve the conditions of life and work for the working classes, and let him also place the power for securing improvement in the hands of the working classes. Let him see that the working classes in this country are given adult franchise; let him also see that the elections are made easier for them so that power will pass into the hands of the working classes. After

[Mr N M Joshi]

social security is given to them and after they are given political power then it should be time for us to consider whether we should not restrict the activities of the working classes which may be anti-social I can understand that being done And therefore I feel that the Honourable Member in charge is putting the cart before the horse He should first give social security to the working classes and improve their conditions, give them political power and then if he likes introduce all these restrictions It has one advantage and that is this If you may impose restrictions on the working classes before they get political power the restriction will be imposed by an outside Government But if the working classes get political power in their hands and if they introduce these restrictions on their own activities they will be restrictions imposed by them upon themselves and they will willingly have them and tolerate them Therefore let him not do a thing which is equivalent to putting the cart before the horse Let him first take all these necessary steps which should come first and then introduce the legislation which we are considering this afternoon

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st October, 1947"

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Sir, it was the original intention of this group to oppose the motion for reference to Select Committee and to support Mr Jaffer's motion for circulation That position was based not on what might or might not be our view as regards the merits of this measure—indeed it is not our intention even to discuss those merits today—but it arose rather from a strong disapproval on our part of the practice, to which we have grown accustomed in recent years, of rushing through important complicated pieces of legislation such as that which we are now considering The Bill now under discussion was first presented to this House on Monday and until three days ago no member of this House, except those privileged few who happen to be in the inner circle of Government, had the faintest idea as to the form that it would take or, except in the most vague and general sense, as to what its content would be The Bill itself consists of 40 clauses of an extremely complicated nature, and of such a nature that for their proper understanding and appreciation we require not merely to study the Bill itself, but to study the practice in other parts of the world, to study the recent Bombay Bill and to compare it with all useful precedents that we can gather from any other parallel part of the world. It is, I venture to say, without any exception the most important legislative measure affecting labour that has yet been introduced into this House We in this group feel very strongly that, faced with a measure of this kind we must not be asked after three days' study to express a final opinion regarding the principles contained in it, and then a brief few days after that be prepared to discuss it in the utmost detail in the Select Committee. We may perhaps be old-fashioned but in this group we take our duties seriously We feel that on every member of this House lies a very heavy obligation to scrutinise with the utmost care measures of this degree of importance; and it is fantastic to pretend that any member of this House, be his capacity and knowledge and experience what they may, can arrive at a considered view on a Bill of this nature within a comparatively few days We felt, therefore, that in seeking to send this Bill to Select Committee at once Government were not treating this House—I will not say with respect, but with consideration And we felt it so strongly that it was our intention to oppose the present reference to Select Committee Quite apart from our own position, even if we considered ourselves capable of arriving at considered views on the details of this Bill within a few days, there are others outside this House to be considered Under the system in which we live, it is true we are not mere delegates, we represent our constituents We are not bound by their views Nevertheless prudence suggests that when measures of a highly technical nature are introduced we should avail ourselves of what experience we can get from those of our constituents who are concerned with these practical industrial and labour matters It seems to us a farce to introduce a Bill of this kind and then three days afterwards expect us to come to this House, armed

with the ripe experience of those whose experience ought to be available to us, and tell you what we think of this Bill

Mr. President: I should like to intervene here, and perhaps curtail some of the arguments. I have just received an intimation that Government are going to move an amendment to their main motion. One part of the amendment relates to some addition and substitution of names of members of the Select Committee, which is not very material so far as the present discussion is concerned. The other part of the amendment seeks to substitute the 1st February 1947 for the 7th November 1946. The amendment is coming and the Honourable Member may address his remarks in the light of that position.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Sir, I welcome that announcement with the most profound satisfaction, if only because it takes away any necessity for any further speech on my part. But I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to the Honourable Labour Member our deep appreciation of this new responsiveness to the wishes of this House. In the past that responsiveness has not always been forthcoming. It heartens us very considerably to feel that the Honourable Labour Member is anxious to take into consideration the wishes of this House and to meet our difficulties. I thank him on behalf of this group most sincerely and—best thanks of all—I avoid inflicting on him any further speech. I support the motion for reference to Select Committee.

Mr. S. C. Joshi (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, I beg to move

"(a) That the name of Mr P J Griffiths be added to the names of members of the Select Committee and the name of Mr A C Inskip be substituted for the name of Mr R C Morris, and

(b) that for the words and figures '7th November 1946' the words and figures '1st February, 1947' be substituted."

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"(a) That the name of Mr P J Griffiths be added to the names of members of the Select Committee and the name of Mr A C Inskip be substituted for the name of Mr R C Morris, and

(b) that for the words and figures '7th November 1946' the words and figures '1st February 1947' be substituted."

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban) Sir, I should like to move a very minor amendment, namely, that the name of Miss Maniben Kara be added to the names of members of the Select Committee. I hope the Honourable Member will accept my suggestion.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I have no objection.

Mr. President: Will Mr Siddiqi move that as an amendment?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I beg to move

"That the name of Miss Maniben Kara be added to the names of members of the Select Committee."

Mr. President: The former I thought was a request to the Honourable Member to consider the proposal. Amendment moved.

"That the name of Miss Maniben Kara be added to the names of members of the Select Committee."

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I make one small suggestion. Would the Honourable Member make it 15th of February instead of 1st of February? I think it will be convenient to him also and it will give the Select Committee a few days of the Budget Session in hand.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: No, Sir.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras Indian Commerce) I welcome the attempt on the part of the Government to deal with the present state of affairs in India, but I do not think that the proposals they have brought forward are quite enough to bring that peace, contentment and happy working in industry which we all expect should follow. We have been following the practices in the West, especially England, with reference to these industrial matters. We have been thinking of the antagonism between capital and labour so much so that my friend, Prof Ranga and people of his view always consider 'capitalist' as the last word they can use as abuse with reference to any person. There are many

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thinking that we here can proceed in a different way from what is being followed in the West with reference to our industries, as we are doing in other matters. The idea never enters their mind that there need not be antagonism, that there may be co-operation between capital and labour and also the other most important element in industry, namely the *entrepreneur*, the person who initiates, who organizes and who manages and who is probably more important in industry than either labour or capital—all these people should co-operate and should find some means whereby there may not be in the working that antagonism which we are seeing and about which we are talking so loudly. Sir, the most important step I may say has been introduced in this present Bill by way of the appointment of a works committee within the industry itself. It is said that the management and the labour can come together and they can consider what are the reasons for any dispute that might have arisen. Sir, it is only a very minute beginning. That is not the sort of thing which will satisfy or which will bring about the amity which we want in industry. We are to face facts. We should be prepared to say that labour is as important as capital and, as I have said, the *entrepreneur* is as important as either labour or capital. There is to be the idea of co-operative working of all these elements and partnership in management and in profits. That is the only way in which we can deal with this question satisfactorily. Any other step which we may take in this House would be only a half-way or a quarter-way house which will not lead to that happy atmosphere of contentment which is necessary. The country is to benefit by its industry and by its labour. That is the matter which I hope every member here as well as all responsible people outside will seriously consider. Sir, after 30 years of rather active life at the bar I was unexpectedly drawn to undertake the supervision of the management of a mill. The first thing that struck me when

I took over the supervision was the antagonism between labour and the so-called capitalist. Sir, I was working all my life in the co-operative field and I have been trying to bring into existence co-operative factories where all persons interested can work together without any feeling that they were being deprived of their just rights. When I undertook the management of the mill, the first idea that struck me was that I should make some proposal whereby this antagonism might be avoided. I made a proposal that a Works Committee may be appointed which will have the right to decide along with the representatives of the management, all matters relating to internal management, and it will also have the responsibility to see to proper production, to guarantee average production that is obtained in such industries outside. It ought to have both the right to manage as well as the responsibility for production. Then I said that when profits are obtained, first we give a certain fair wage to the worker including the *entrepreneur*, then a fair dividend to the capital that is invested, and then, Sir, any extra profits will be divided between capital, labour and the *entrepreneur*. This struck me as possibly the best solution that can be found for the state of affairs in our industries today. It was in the year 1937 that I actually made the proposal to my brother employers. Of course there was no unanimity, but some of them were prepared to consider the proposal. I immediately approached the Leader of the Communist Labour Party in my province, Mr Ramamurti, and he declined to sponsor this proposal or even to accept it. Then I approached the Honourable Mr Giri who was then in the Government of Madras. He appreciated the proposal, but he was not prepared to father it. That was the state of affairs before the war started. When the war started, we had to keep quiet. Things have changed very much since the war. We are finding unrest everywhere. My Honourable friend, Mr Joshi, just now said that among the people employed in industry those who are taking part in strikes or who are striking at a particular movement, are very few. I do not agree with him. Those who are after strike are a very large number. In season and out of season and for no reason they start strike or they threaten strike. What is the state of affairs in a place like Coimbatore? We have got textile mills there. On almost every question there is trouble. If a person is to be appointed, one union comes and says that a person recommended by that union ought to be

appointed, then another union comes and says that a person recommended by that union should be appointed. If we appoint one of the two people, the other union at once strikes. There is any amount of trouble. Well, Sir, it is not always a question of strike. It is the threatening of a strike. It is the mentality that is produced by this idea of strike that stands in the way of production and in the way of anything being done. Unless some method is found for settling disputes, I do not think, Sir, this fever of unrest will stop. As I said, without any reason whatever people will lay down their tools. They will say that they will not work.

I will give you a small case. At about one o'clock one day in the Canteen, which was opened by the mill for the benefit of the labourers, a worm was found in the tiffin supplied to one of the persons. At once they downed tools. No amount of explanation nor appeasement made them resume work. That particular shift of people stopped work that day for two hours. It was only the next shift that came on and worked. That is the sort of thing that is going on. Is it proper to allow that?

All that this Bill is proposing to do is to provide for settlement of disputes. In the first place, the question will be whether there can be a strike without a dispute. I know there are strikes without disputes. In a case like that, it can not be dealt with unless there is some sort of legislation. My friend, Mr. Joshi for instance referred to a sort of demonstration which is often resorted to, e.g., general strike which is being organized in Calcutta. It is not a strike with reference to any industrial dispute. It is only a matter of demonstration. It cannot possibly come under the provisions of a Bill like this. Those who demonstrate know the liabilities they incur. They will lose their wages for the time they are out of work and they are prepared for it. But this Bill, I take it, refers only to those strikes which are the result of industrial disputes. It is only in that connection this compulsory settlement becomes necessary. As I said this is only a sort of halfway house and even so, Sir, it ought to be effective. It ought to be efficient to stop the present ferment and unrest and make things easy for the industries concerned.

My friend Mr. Joshi, was saying it is a discriminatory legislation. It was forced only on the labourers. But he forgets, Sir, that it is not only the labourer that is affected. It is also the employer, whether the employer is a private individual or a Government Department. Whoever it is, whoever is the other party to the dispute, the employer is as much bound by the procedure that is laid down in this Bill as the labourer is. So to say that it is discriminatory and it is good to affect only one of the parties, is not, I beg to submit, quite correct.

Then he has been saying that the Bill does not provide for the amenities that ought to be provided for the labourers like security, pensions, housing and things like that. Sir, those are matters which have to be decided by these conciliatory arrangements. It is for the union to ask for them and if the employer does not give them then there arises a dispute and that will have to be settled and it will have to be settled with reference to the possibilities of finding money in the industries themselves for these purposes. Whether it is to be made part of a kind of general security for the people will have also to be considered. It is not true that these amenities are not included in the Bill and no provision can be made through this Bill. These are all matters which can be raised by the unions and when the employers do not agree, those matters of industrial dispute can be referred to arbitration. There are two matters in which I agree with him. One is the prolongation of the proceedings. I am anxious that these disputes should not be allowed to continue for long. Already, Sir, we are losing very heavily on account of these strikes everywhere and I know cases where for practically no reason mills have been closed for months. For instance, I may say in one mill in Coimbatore, the Lakshmi Mills—you might have read about it in the papers—the only difference was that the Communists' union in the mill wanted persons of their choice to be appointed and the Congress Union on the other side wanted its nominees to be appointed. For this question of the appointment of either of the nominees the mills were closed for four months. They would not agree on the persons to be appointed. The Managing Agents

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were powerless. They were told by one party that if the other party-men were appointed, they would strike and *vice versa*. The result was that for several months a textile mill with 40,000 spindles was lying idle—for four months I believe. That is the sort of thing that is happening in the country. We want that such things should not be allowed to continue. We want that there should be a speedy decision with reference to matters in this Bill.

Sir, the provision that is made for the appointment of a Works Committee, then a Conciliation Officer, then a Conciliation Board, then a Court of Enquiry and then a Tribunal are all likely to prolong the whole enquiry. I know it is not necessary for every dispute to go through every one of these channels. It is open to the Government right at the beginning to appoint a tribunal and there end the matter. But ordinarily, we know how things will take their course. When you have a number of institutions like that, they will naturally pass through most of them with the result that there will be long delay in the matter of deciding these issues.

Well, Sir, I would ask the Honourable the Minister to simplify the procedure and allow the tribunal to act as early as possible after enquiry either by the Works Committee, or the Conciliation Officer or the Board of Conciliation. We do not think it should pass through all these bodies. One of them is quite enough. If one of them represents or makes a report to Government or the appropriate authority that it is not possible to come to a settlement, then I think the Government ought to be prepared to refer the matter to the tribunal. That will simplify matters.

The second objection by Mr Joshi was that the award of the tribunal is not binding. I agree with him. When once a Government appoints a tribunal—and naturally it appoints on it such men as it has confidence in and they are persons who will have the same qualifications as persons who will be appointed to the High Courts—they can be trusted to make a proper award. So if a matter is referred to a tribunal and the tribunal gives an award, I think that award should be binding on the Government as well as on the parties concerned, and in that way the disputes can be brought to an end. There may not be the same objection as regards prolongation of the proceedings or as regards the ineffectiveness of the award that is given, if these are amended. I think we will be taking a step forward to seeing the end of industrial disputes that may occur.

Sir, as I said at the beginning I welcome this Bill, and personally I would prefer that it went very much further and made the works committee, the arbiter of the internal management and partnership in profits, the natural course of dividing the fruits of labour. Short of that I would welcome a measure like this to end the industrial disputes that are the order of the day at the present time.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official). Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr Joshi. The amendment which was moved by the Honourable the Labour Member merely amounts to the postponement of the day of the Select Committee. The purpose for which the amendment for circulation was moved is not fulfilled by the amendment of the Honourable the Labour Member. I therefore rise to support Mr Joshi's amendment. The Trade Disputes Act which is of such grave importance, then will have sufficient time to be discussed by the public as well as by the workers, the peasants and their respective organisations. Mr Joshi with his very long experience of parliamentary life has very ably pointed out the implications of that Act. I would therefore try and shorten my speech and limit myself only to those aspects which have not been sufficiently stressed by my Honourable friend Mr Joshi.

I feel that a Bill like the present one, if at all it is passed, will mean in real terms a Black Act for the working classes of this country. The underlying principle of the Industrial Disputes Act is that it is an attempt to make a breach of civil contract a penal offence. Not only the working classes of this country but any person who stands for the democratic right of citizenship will

support this contention of mine. I am not a lawyer. There are others sitting on the benches opposite who are competent enough to understand the serious implications of turning a breach of civil contract into a penal offence, which really amounts to restricting the civil liberties of the people of this country.

When in 1929 the Industrial Disputes Act was passed, let me remind the Honourable Members of this House that it was opposed tooth and nail by the entire working class of this country. There were demonstrations, protest meetings and even strikes against that Act of 1929. Only, at that time we did not have a popular government and we thought that a bureaucratic government was foisting something on the working classes in spite of their protestations and opposition. I will make bold to say that turning this breach of civil contract into a penal offence is a grave violation of the principles of natural justice. I would therefore appeal to the sense of democratic right of citizenship of every member of this House, regardless of their party affiliations or class interests, to try and judge the implications of this Bill on its own merits.

After all, what is a strike? It has been ably explained by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi. When an employee goes to an employer for a job and he gets the job, the worker has entered into a civil contract with the employer. When the employer and the employee agree on certain terms of work they enter into a civil contract. If that contract is broken, then the employer is at liberty, even under existing conditions and the laws of this country, to prosecute that man and at the most get damages, because that man has broken a civil contract.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Would you support that prosecution?

Miss Maniben Kara: I would.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Do you think you could get a rupee?

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, the existing law only provides for a breach of contract claim for damages from either party. My Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir just now asked me whether the employers can get anything out of the workers. I may also ask him another question. When the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act was passed in spite of the opposition of the working classes by the popular ministry then, it was maintained that the law provided for so-called facilities to the workers, but I have seen from my own experience that when an employer wrongly dismisses an employee, what can the employee do? He goes to the Labour officer. He has to go to a court. I would ask, has the employee got the money? Assuming that he did and that he went through all these processes, what does he get? He may get the satisfaction that an employer has been fined about Rs. 100. But the employee does not get his job back. So the employee is always at a disadvantage. The important point involved in this present act is a matter of the principle of the right of democratic citizenship of this country. A civil contract cannot be turned into a criminal offence by a stroke of the pen by a popular government. We certainly welcome the disappearance of a bureaucratic government from this country but we are going to judge the new popular government by their own acts. I would therefore appeal to them not to come out with a Bill of this kind, which turns a breach of a civil contract into a penal offence. It means that if the workers choose not to work for any particular employer or if workers wish to have a change of master, they cannot have the freedom to do so. They could be put inside the jail for wanting to do so. They can be treated as criminals and thieves. At this stage I would remind my Honourable friends that the District Immigrant Act of 1860, when it was in existence, meant that the workers in plantations simply could not leave their jobs and run away. If they did not like the conditions of work and the exploitation of the planters and if they decided not to live any longer in those places to work, and if they decided to run away, then the entire state machinery—police and everything—could be at the disposal of the employer to bring the workers back to their work. This Act called the District Immigrant Act of 1860 was repealed. It was repealed under the pressure of changing world events. It was considered to be a slavery, and my friends on the opposite benches who are anxious to sponsor this Bill called this

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Act as a slavery because it meant forcing people to work when they did not desire to do so

Similarly, section 494 of the Indian Penal Code was meant for a breach of civil contract of service outside British India. It meant that those people who were taken outside this country, say to countries like Africa, after indulging into all the expenses of taking the workers outside British India, and if those workers did not want to work, then this section provided that it was a punishable offence. Even the bureaucratic government which existed at that time was compelled to repeal that section 494 in 1920. I want to appeal to my friends—and I hope my appeal will go home to them—let us not in these present days when world events are changing so fast, when the democratic forces in the country are going ahead and the working classes in particular are coming into their own in various countries—let not the first act of the popular government be such whereby not only the liberties of the working classes and their rights are taken away but the very right of citizenship and their democratic rights are taken away from them by turning a breach of civil contract into a penal offence.

An Act of such grave importance, not only for the working classes but for the entire population of this country why should it pass with such great haste? During war time we had to suffer Ordinances. Persons like us who always stood for the victory of the democratic forces accepted those Ordinances because we felt that the destruction of fascism was the ultimate victory of the working classes, and it is as a result of the destruction of fascism that we are glad to see that the bureaucratic government has gone and a popular government has come into power, but apart from that, during war time these measures—81A of the Ordinance was in force and it would have naturally expired by the first of October. Most of my friends sitting here know very well that the Ordinances for controls are fast disappearing. The controls only remain for food and other essential commodities. Ordinances are being withdrawn. Ordinances are withdrawn whereby the upper classes can have all the freedom, but so far as this particular section of the ordinance is concerned, I am surprised to find that it has got an extension of six months. It could not have got that extension for six months but for the consent of the majority party. The ordinance which in the natural course would have expired by the 1st of October—I mean section 91A—has been extended for a further six months, and if I can understand rightly, all this hurry for passing or getting this Bill through is simply to see that a restriction is placed on the workers before the expiry of this ordinance. I for one expect that, with the popular government coming into power, not only all these ordinances will go, but that the Act of 1920 which was imposed by a bureaucratic government will also go, and we will have in this country more civil liberties, more freedom and greater rights of citizenship.

There are in this Bill, as has been pointed out already by my friend Mr. Joshi, very serious implications, and the Bill is one-sided. Some clauses give an appearance of great advantages being granted to workers. What are the advantages that the workers are going to have? The advantages are in the form of workers' committees. On behalf of the workers and on behalf of the poorer strata of society, I would say that I would most certainly welcome a measure like this, but even then I would say that I stand for voluntary recognition and the employers accepting the principle of collective bargaining with the workers. Why should not this works committee,—if it gets the status that it deserves, not be able to bring between workers and employers an understanding? It will, but why should their right to strike be taken away from them? I am not one of those who would oppose a good measure like works committee simply because it has been sponsored by a particular party. I have no affiliations in this House—I stand alone here and my loyalty is only to the working classes and to nobody else. I therefore welcome the principle of works committee, but the underlying basic principle of this Bill, which is to deprive the workers of the only weapon of strike which is in their hands.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Question

Miss Maniben Kara: After all why have these restrictions against the workers if they want to strike? As a matter of fact, workers have no bank balances, they have no credits, nobody will give them—even the ration shops will not give them one week's rations unless they paid for it, and if the last Honourable speaker has made out a case that by seeing a rat somewhere the workers go on strike, well, I do not know whether he has any experience of workers. Perhaps he was just making out a case to strengthen his own position. We are not those who want to have strikes for agitational purposes, we cannot afford strikes, we stand for the right of collective bargaining, we believe in voluntary understanding between the employers and the employees.

I have made my position clear even when I spoke on the Trades Union Recognition Bill yesterday, that it is most unfortunate that even at this stage we require legislation for a very elementary right of the working classes, namely, recognition of trade unions.

The blame is not of the workers. It is of the employers and the Government which today have brought the necessity for such a Bill. I once again want to emphasize this fact that we are not people who want strikes. Does the Labour Member really think that by passing this kind of Act he is going to prevent strikes? If the Honourable Member and his friends were not afraid of going to jail, do you mean to say that the workers will be afraid of going to jail? It is no threat. If such a measure is going to be imposed on the working classes, I can tell you that it will be opposed tooth and nail in action and deeds.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You swallowed it during the last six years.

Miss Maniben Kara: Let me remind my friend Prof. Ranga that even during war time the wages of the workers were not high compared to the cost of living but today nobody can deny that the worker is faced with unemployment, retrenchment, starvation, misery and diseases and add to these, the communal riots. The wanting or not wanting of strikes does not depend upon the whims of the agitators. It is only when the workers cannot get the very necessities of life and it is only when they cannot put up with the atrocities to which they are subjected that they go on strike.

As I said, the workers have no bank balances. The workers are interested in industrial peace and it should be the joint effort of industry and labour to see how we can secure industrial peace in this country. No such peace can come by means of repressive measures. If you want industrial peace, I would ask the Honourable the Labour Member to bring in measures which would relieve the workers of their miseries, the minimum wage Bill, the social securities Bill, the Old Age Pension Bill and so on. There are various other things which the workers want. Bring measures which really improve the economic condition of the working classes and I can assure you that there will be no strikes. Strikes only take place out of sheer necessity. They take place only when the employers get unreasonable and do not listen, in spite of letters, deputations and other things. Is there any machinery by which the worker can get his grievances redressed? No. This Bill provides that after giving notice, an officer will be appointed, a board will be appointed. As was rightly pointed out by Mr. Joshi, this big machinery of the Government will go on functioning and not functioning for two years and even then in the end the decisions of the Industrial Court cannot be enforced. It may be enforced partly. In other words the worker is never in a position to go on strike and we shall be depriving the working classes of this country of the only weapon which is in their hands. Why should this measure be restricted only to the workers? Why does it not apply to share bazaars, cotton bazaars and other similar places? Every time they are closed, it is not called a strike. It is called a demonstration. It may be a demonstration to them but it is not a demonstration to the public. The public is greatly inconvenienced. I say, this is not giving the worker a fair deal. It is all one-sided. It is directed against the poorer strata of society. I am not one of those who are asking for the imposition of such a ban. I believe in the democratic right of citizenship but the present Labour Member

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has thought it fit and necessary that it was the working classes alone who require this sort of protection in his own understanding

[At this Mr President vacated the chair which was then occupied by Mr Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan)]

I have said practically all I wanted to say but before I sit down I would once again press this most important point on the attention of the House—that the passage of this Bill will mean that we are turning the breach of a civil contract into a penal offence which effects the lives of the working classes alone. It is an encroachment on the rights of citizenship of this country. I therefore hope that the Bill may be circulated and eventually after getting the views of the representative organisations in this country, I hope the Labour Member will reconsider the thing and withdraw this Bill, because it is going to be opposed by the entire working class of this country.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Mr Deputy President, I had not the least intention of entering into this war between capital and labour but being a Muslim and holding to the belief that society should not be divided on an economic basis, I should nevertheless like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill to conditions as they exist in the world to-day. I have heard the word 'democracy' mentioned many times. If it is democracy in Washington and London, will the Honourable Members tell me whether it is democracy in Moscow also? I would like the Honourable Member in charge to realise that these democratic notions and this division of society on an economic basis between workers and employers is leading to eternal damnation and constant wars. I see no distinction between conditions as they are in Moscow to-day and as they were in Berlin or Rome before the war or during the war. In this land of imitation and incongruities of ours we are repeating, parrot-like things which others have thought and others have put into practice. Everything which develops in Europe cannot succeed in this land of castes and many religions. I was hoping that the change that has come over this House would remove not only the political slavery of my countrymen but also the intellectual slavery to which we have been subjected since foreign domination. It is again worthy of consideration of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill whether it is wise on his part and the part of his colleagues to take advantage of this *interim* period and rush through measures which will affect the whole condition and structure of Indian Society tomorrow. The words 'capitalist' and 'labour' have been used in this debate. There is a suspicion abroad in the country that the Government of India of to-day is capitalist-ridden, that influences from Bombay and other commercial centres have had something to do with the selection and nomination of Members in charge of various Departments. I would earnestly appeal to the Honourable Member in charge to see that this suspicion is removed particularly in view of his enthusiastic ecstasies yesterday over the Conference he had with Congress Ministers in charge of labour in the Congress-governed Provinces.

Some Honourable Members: There were Ministers of all provinces.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I speak on my book and I do not allow being interrupted. The Congress Ministries and Ministers and the Honourable Member in charge of Labour have decided things. The suspicion is likely to spread that from the Centre the same capitalistic influences will go into the provinces and millions and crores of rupees will go to the undoing of the poorer sections of our people.

He has thought of strikes. I have had something to do with them and have suffered through them. I am neither a capitalist nor a worker, I earn my living by doing a clerical job. But what I should like the Honourable Member in charge and the veteran labour leader and our sister sitting behind me, is this. They take the name of the poor and suffering worker, they talk of the rights of labour, but do you know, Sir, that in my experience—and it is a very long one, perhaps as long as that of any Member in the House to day—

it is not the labourer who conducts the affairs of labour. It is men who have nothing to do with the industry that make use of these strikes for political purposes. Sir, if labour leaders are going to utilise their brain-power and their intellect to undo the poor worker and to run away with his monthly contributions to push on their political mischief, I would rather say that the Bill be dropped altogether. During the postal strike, which made us all suffer, the Postal Union came to terms, but the Trade Union Congress with mighty big names of Presidents and Secretaries held the blunderbuss at our temples. I hope the Honourable Member in charge, who has not had enough time to go into these matters, will also consider the problem of what they have begun to call 'sympathetic strikes'.

I know the hour is getting late and I should not like to prolong my little contribution to the intellectuality, the outlook and vision of the Honourable Member in charge, but I take this Bill to be Chapter II of the Bill he introduced yesterday. Mr Deputy President, it did not come with a good grace from the lips of the representative of the Scheduled Castes in this House to run down the idea of communal unions. He knows and we know that in the terrible situation through which we are passing in India, Muslim employees are being kicked out by Hindu organisations and asked to go and find their bread in Pakistan. (Interruption) I am again speaking on my book and would challenge contradiction. Mr Joshi will perhaps bear me out that in Bombay the millowners have removed your communal brothers and mine, the *Julahas*, who were Muslims from Parsee and Hindu mills. I am again speaking on my book. They were removed one by one and thus they had to start a Muslim Girm. Kanjar Union. Saklatwala came from London in those days and when matters were brought to his notice and after he had investigated them, he had a good few words to tell to the general Girm Kanjar Union. Those conditions have spread wider to-day. I want peace, I want friendliness, I want mutual consideration and co-operation among our workers. But that will not be obtained by preaching to them "nationalism" and sitting here as a representative of the Scheduled Castes. Either he should not have been here or, if he was here, then he should have protected the rights of those who have been denied every right till now. I can speak with some knowledge that Muslim workers, whether in State organisations whether in public utility services and whether in private commercial organisation are being picked out and thrown away. The veteran labour leader will have to teach me all over again the meaning of "public utility services". We have also read that word and heard it and sometimes taken part in public utility organisations. To remove railways from public utilities because England has done it and to introduce others leads me to a feeling of hopelessness about our industries and relations between capital and labour in the future.

Public utilities to be owned by the public would indicate railways owned by the State which in the last analysis is but another name for the public. I would also request the Honourable Member in charge that now that they have secured those Benches, they will not and he will not allow labour unions to be considered as branches of the Indian National Congress and nothing more, that they will not and he will not allow these unions to make discrimination between capitalists, Hindu or Muslim. Let them treat all alike. If a Hindu capitalist is not kind to his workers, he should be punished and the same treatment should be accorded to a Muslim or a European capitalist or employer. But, Sir my experience tell me that discrimination is being used. My experience has brought cases to me where Muslim employers are alone put to trouble. I would like the Honourable Member in charge to call for lists of membership of all unions in India. If it takes him a year, I would extend to him the date. Let him find out how Muslims, particularly, and perhaps Scheduled Castes people are removed. How many hold any office? How many hold any key positions?

The Honourable Mr. Jagjivan Ram: Many.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I know what is happening in the East Indian railway and the Bengal Assam Railway unions. He need not accept my statement. Let him enquire and find out and then let him, if he can judge things on merit make decisions justly and equitably. I also belong to India, my community is more labour-minded than a Jagatseeth community. His sermon yesterday led me to make these remarks. I have no intention of being in any way offensive. I am appealing to him to show mercy, to show justice, to show kindness for the poor Muslim worker, to whom the veterans of the labour movement have not given any encouragement, have not given any support and whom, wherever possible, they have kicked out. It is therefore that suspicion arises in my mind and I hope it will be removed. If I can induce the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill to accept the Islamic theory of society, nothing would please me better. But in the middle of this 20th century and in a country the people of which do not look at anything sensibly and in their own way but must go to Moscow and to London, must quote from German or French authors, until that habit of imitation, until that parrot-like habit of repetition of foreign theories which will not apply to conditions in our country persists, I can only appeal to the Honourable Member in charge for justice and not even for generosity.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Mr Deputy President, Sir, after hearing so many speeches for and against the Motion, I feel I must begin by letting the cat out of the bag. The question which is before us today, though purely of a trade union nature, though purely of the nature regulating disputes between employers and employees, is not quite devoid of politics. I have heard with rapt attention the speech which was made by my Honourable friend Mr Joshi. I have heard the speech of Miss Maniben Kara, and I have also heard my Honourable friend Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi whose speeches are always like a breeze, violent though sometimes, and yet, quite provocative of thought. Well, Sir, the motion before the House from the side of the Muslim League party is that the Bill should be sent for circulation in order to elicit public opinion, and I hope this motion will not be pressed because the Honourable the Labour Member himself has conceded more or less to the demand for more time by accepting the amendment which was moved by Mr S C Joshi, the Chief Labour Commissioner. Therefore, I think, that so far as this Motion is concerned, the motion from the Muslim League party is concerned, it is more or less of a nature the principle of which has been accepted by the Labour Member and I hope that my Honourable friend Mr Jaffer will be kind enough to withdraw his motion. But certainly so far as the motion of my Honourable friend Mr N M Joshi is concerned, there is something which tells me that his desire to take as much time as possible is not with a view to improve the Bill by eliciting public opinion but it is with a view to sabotage the whole measure.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: How do you know it?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: I know it. He himself has very clearly said that in case his motion is not accepted, he will oppose the measure, and because in principle he does not accept the fundamentals which are contained in this Bill, I for the life of me cannot understand what possible advantage he will be able to derive by playing these delaying tactics upon the House. He does not accept compulsory arbitration. I do not think Mr Joshi is made of such stuff that he will be made to feel the necessity of accepting that principle even after six months' time, if we postpone this measure till then.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr Deputy President, the Bill is being circulated not for my benefit. It is circulated in order to hear the public opinion, in order that the public in India may know what the measure is.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: I will come to that public presently. So far as he himself is concerned, he has definitely said that it is not for his benefit that he wants it to be circulated, but it is for the benefit of the public that he wants it to go into circulation. Let me, Sir, with your permission, take into consideration those principles which generally call for circulation of a Bill. There are more or less three or four considerations which make it incumbent upon

Government to get a Bill circulated for eliciting public opinion. Firstly, that the legislation should be well considered, secondly, that all sections should be consulted, and thirdly, that we should not legislate in a hurry. So far as these principles are concerned, it is better that we should see whether all these things are not meant for those times when we could go with easy steps and whether they should be made applicable to such times through which we are passing. I am reminded of a very famous saying of the late Lord Lloyd-George who said that there are times when the world spins so leisurely that it seems to remain at a stand-still for centuries, and then again there are times when the world moves with such a giddy pace that the distances of centuries are covered within days. Today we are passing through those times when we cannot wait for these dilatory tactics of sending Bills into circulation, and for very good reasons. Those who are aware of the history of legislation during the last 18 months in Great Britain will know how many laws have been passed in succession quickly. They did not wait for all these niceties.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You bring forward such legislation, I will support you.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: That is the kind of legislation we are bringing forward now, this is part of that legislation. And those who talk in that strain are really people who want to do the workers in the eye. There was a time in my own province when the provincial Government came out with a proposal for the abolition of zamindari. Some people came forward and said, "Well, you are abolishing zamindari, why do you not abolish capitalism itself?"—which means a sure way of sidetracking all our activities.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You bring forward a Bill tomorrow for the abolition of zamindari and you will have my fullest support.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: I am quite confident that Mr. Joshi will support such a Bill but unfortunately zamindari is not his subject but a subject of the provinces, and my province and other Congress provinces are quite capable of tackling the problem and they are doing it. But, as I said, these are the three considerations which guide us in sending a Bill into circulation. But I think we should not in any way allow ourselves to be sidetracked and we should not allow our activities to be confounded by such tall talks. The time-factor is not necessarily a *sine quo non* of producing good legislation. As the Honourable the Labour Member has already said, he or the Government of India, have been at it for the last so many months, all the employers have been consulted, when they assembled here in the tripartite conference. Similarly labour leaders have also been consulted. But because there is a section of people in the country who want to take advantage of the poor ignorant workers and who want to create difficulties in the way of the smooth working of national Governments in the various provinces, they are coming forward and condemning every legislation that we bring forward for the welfare of the workers. My Honourable friend Miss Kara said that she accepted all these restrictions on workers during the six years of war because she and men of her way of thinking were the people who were very anxious for the victory of the democratic forces of the world. Well, 'democratic forces' is all right, but may I know if this was the only noble principle which inspired them to keep mum during the last six years and allow the workers to be thrown to the wolves? Was that the only thing or was there something else? A tangible Rs 13,000 a month, why should she forget it? There is a character in Dickens who says, "Come, dear, let us talk fustian and gull them." She cannot go on talking fustian like this.

Miss Maniben Kara: What about your getting lakhs from the millowners?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi said that by this legislation we are legalising strikes and forcing workers to accept arbitration. And then he made such funny remarks about this that I was really at a loss to understand whether Mr. Joshi was serious. He said we want to force the workers to accept arbitration. Well, he said, the arbitrator must be an impartial man; and who will be the authority that will appoint that arbitrator? Naturally, the Government, and if the Government, as it is constituted today, appoints the arbitrator naturally the Government is not impartial.

[Pandit Balkrishna Sharma]

the arbitrator who will be appointed will be also partial. Therefore, ultimately, from Mr Joshi's own arguments, it is proved that the principle of compulsory arbitration is humbug and therefore in no circumstances should this principle be accepted (Interruptions by Mr N. M. Joshi) I do not give in, Sir

[At this stage Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) resumed the chair.]

Mr. President: Let both the Honourable Members resume their seats. Mr Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir the Honourable Member is misrepresenting me. What I said was that when there will be a Government based on adult suffrage in which all sections will be properly represented certainly the working classes will have confidence in the impartiality of that Government.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Let me say that if there is adult suffrage the provincial legislatures and the central legislature will not be changed beyond recognition from what they are today. Such men always harp on the principle of adult suffrage and because adult suffrage cannot come today they stand in the way of a legislation which is in the interest of the workers.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, the Honourable Member is again misrepresenting me. He says I am opposing all measures. There is the Health Insurance Bill coming up, I shall support it. I may try to amend it but I certainly do not propose to oppose all the Bills.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: I did not say all measures but such measures as affect labour and such measures about which he does not receive sanction from some organisation in the country to which he owes loyalty.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, he is again misrepresenting me. I owe loyalty to no one. I owe loyalty to myself first and then to the working classes of this country and to nobody else.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: If this principle is adopted that so long as Government is not impartial, so long no principle of compulsory arbitration should be introduced in any legislation, then I submit that till Doomsday we are not going to get such Government. If this Government is not there and another Government comes in, that Government may be a Labour Government, and my capitalist friends will stand up and say that that is not an impartial Government and so they cannot accept any principle of compulsory arbitration. That is what it comes to, and their cue to go on saying and harping upon this thing that we cannot have any compulsory arbitration these days is an argument the validity of which I have not been able to understand.

And then again he said you have declared the strikes illegal. I say I have not. By this Bill we are only going to regulate the strikes and not to declare them illegal. That is the position of the Bill.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: We are more anxious to make the strikes successful.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Because we are the men of the people. We are Mr Joshi's colleagues and Mr Joshi knows it and therefore we would be the first persons to come in the way of healthy, strong trade unions developing in this country, and by this Bill we are giving a filip to the trade union movement and we are trying to bring it to its own end and we are trying to get it out of the clutches of those people who have exploited labour for so many years. Let me assure everyone present here that we are not in the least anxious to come in the way of healthy development of labour. We want that our people should gain strength, we want that all classes, particularly those who are exploited, should come to their own and I think, Sir, this Bill which is before us today is the one measure by which we will be able to eliminate the activities of such of the people in labour movement who are trying to discredit our governments in various provinces and who are trying to create confusion in the public mind.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Whose Government?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Peoples' Governments in the provinces I may also point out that so far as the strikes are concerned, in my own province I had experience of dealing with these strikes for the last 20 years and more, and I know how interested people in the name of popular front have tried to take advantage of creating confusion in the public and of creating disorder in the society. I know it to my cost and the result is today that I am supporting this measure by which we shall be in a position to approach our workers and tell them how they should behave and how they should proceed and how they should protect themselves against those who come and talk of their interest but actually want to forward their own party interests in the name of the labour. And, therefore, Sir, I give my wholehearted support to the amended motion which the Honourable the Labour Minister has placed before us.

There are one or two points which I would like to make clear before I resume my seat. I have heard Mr. Joshi saying, well, if the strikes today are there in the country then naturally there must be some very grave causes. Naturally there are causes. Ill housing—all right. Insufficient wages, all right. I say this is an eternal problem. This problem of poverty of our masses has been unfortunately with us for the last 150 years and we are not going to solve that problem in the twinkling of an eye. If strikes were the only way of achieving that objective, I shall be the first man to go with Mr. Joshi, but, unfortunately, we know that strikes are not the way to achieve that objective. We have to increase our production, we have to regulate our distribution, we have to industrialize our provinces, and therefore it is not by merely going on strikes that the workers will be able to get what they want, and if in their despondency and in their despair they go on strike, then it is up to us, who are their well wishers, who are their servants, to go to them and tell them that the steps that they are taking are disastrous and that they cannot go on like that in future.

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member going to the other point?

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: He may resume his speech on the next day when this Bill is taken up for consideration.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday the 4th November 1946.

**Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State
are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

MONDAY, 4th NOVEMBER, 1946
Vol. VII—No. 6

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday 4th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

The Honourable Mr Jogendra Nath Mandal (Law Member), and

Sir John Francis Sheehy, C S I , I C S , M L A (Government of India)
Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

DESTRUCTION OF OFFICIAL PAPERS RELATING TO NATIONALIST LEADERS

164 *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether there is any truth in the press reports that certain papers in the Secretariat, relating to certain nationalist leaders were destroyed or hidden before the Interim Government took over,

(b) whether the Interim Government made any enquiries about this matter, if so what is the result thereof, and

(c) whether Government have taken or contemplate to take any measures against those responsible for this action?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari : (a) Yes some papers relating to certain nationalist leaders were destroyed as no longer wanted. No papers were hidden. No papers were destroyed in the Secretariat.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(c) Government do not consider that any action in the matter is called for.

Sardar Mangal Singh : May I know if papers relating to the leaders of all parties have been destroyed, or only those relating to the leaders of the Congress Party?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari : The answer to this question would result in the disclosure of the contents of things which ought to be protected.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that fresh files have been started in respect of these same leaders?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari : This suggestion I must totally deny. Even an answer to this question would involve undesirable disclosures.

Seth Govind Das : How does the Honourable Member think that the papers destroyed were only papers which were not wanted?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari : That is information I am authorised to give.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Has particular care been taken to destroy the personal files of the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari : The answer has to be a repetition of what I have already said. But I would like to explain. That there has been a long and serious conflict between those in authority before and those who are now in authority. It is a patent circumstance and it is no use trying to escape the corollary of that circumstance. No Government can get on without an Intell-

gence Department and we cannot get loyal service from an Intelligence Department if we do not protect the sources of information which they use. If with every change of masters, loyal members of the permanent services should be exposed to ridicule and persecution, it would not be a desirable state of things. It is therefore necessary, Sir, to preserve the convention in all good democracies where Opposition becomes Government and Government becomes Opposition, this convention being that members of the public service should not be exposed to any attack or ridicule on a change of masters.

INDIAN TROOPS IN INDONESIA

165. *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Defence Secretary please state

(a) whether there are any Indian Troops in Indonesia ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative when will the Indian Troops be withdrawn and when will the last Indian soldier leave the soil of that country, and

(c) the number of Indian soldiers and officers who have been killed, wounded and missing in Indonesian operations since the cease fire order on the Far Eastern Front ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Indian troops will be withdrawn from Indonesia by the end of November 1946

(c) The number of Indian Army Officers and other ranks killed, wounded and missing in Indonesian operations since the cease fire order is given in detail in a statement placed on the table of the House. The totals for the Netherlands East Indies are Killed—966, Wounded—1,684, Missing—212

Statement showing number of Indian Army Officers and Other Ranks killed, wounded and missing in Indonesian Operations in Netherlands East Indies since the cease fire order was given in the Far East, as on 10th October 1946

1 Indian Commissioned Officers—				
Killed	.	.	.	11
Wounded	.	.	.	16
Missing	.	.	.	2
2. British Officers (Indian Army)—				
Killed	.	.	.	20
Wounded	.	.	.	35
Missing	.	.	.	2
3 Viceroy's Commissioned Officers—				
Killed	.	.	.	29
Wounded	.	.	.	70
Missing	.	.	.	2
4 I O Rs —				
Killed	.	.	.	906
Wounded	.	.	.	1,684
Missing	.	.	.	206
5 Totals for N E I —				
Killed	.	.	.	966
Wounded	.	.	.	1,684
Missing	.	.	.	212

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Arising out of part (b), I want to know whether the white man's burden will be transferred to the shoulders of Holland after the British and Indian military forces leave that place?

Mr. President: Has the Honourable Member understood the question?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I have not followed the question

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member repeat the question? What is the information that he wants?

(Maulana Zafar Ali Khan did not rise to explain his point)

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether arrangements have been made to get our troops out of that country, or is it only the intention of the Government to do so and that there may be some difficulties later on and the Government may not be able to fulfil their assurance given here?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No, Sir Plans have been well laid for the withdrawal of all Indian troops by the 28th of this month and I see no reason why, unless something very unprecedented happens the last Indian soldier should not have left Indonesia by that date

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether there is any understanding with the Dutch people that the power relinquished by the British will be passed on to the Dutch, and that care is being taken even by our Government that such power does not go to the Indonesians?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: There is no understanding so far as I am aware between the Government of India and the Dutch authorities on this subject of the kind referred to by my Honourable friend

Seth Govind Das: Isn't it a fact that till now several dates had been fixed for withdrawing the army from Indonesia and several times promises were given in this House that by such and such date the Indian troops would be withdrawn? Now should we take it that this 28th November is final?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: According to the present plans and intentions of Government, this is the final date

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Has this Interim Government got full powers over the movement of Indian troops?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That is a big question of policy. But I am sure that the Government of India have a considerable voice in deciding on the movement of troops

TALKS re SETTLEMENT OF STERLING BALANCES

166. *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) when the question of settlement of the sterling balances is likely to be taken up with His Majesty's Government, whether the talks will take place in Delhi or in London, and

(b) whether Government propose to consult this House before the final settlement is reached?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) The question of the date and venue for the negotiations in connection with the sterling balances is at present under discussion with H M G

(b) The Government have duly noted the views expressed in the House during the discussions on the budgets and the Bretton Woods Motions and will bear them in mind. Government consider, however, that discussion of proposals in the Assembly before final settlement would not be a feasible or satisfactory method of conducting these negotiations

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement of Dr Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer that no negotiations would start about the sterling balances till an all Party Government takes place in India? And if it is so, have Government examined the full implications of the statement that England would not pay unless and until there was this sort of Coalition Government which now exists?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: The Government have seen reports regarding the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement but as the Honourable the Finance Member made it clear in his speech on the Brettonwoods motion, the Government of India are in communication with His Majesty's Government and the

latter have expressed their anxiety to conduct the negotiations as early as possible. So the meaning and implication of that statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer do not really arise.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know from the Honourable Member whether these negotiations are likely to take place before the next Budget Session?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I should think so. As the Honourable the Finance Member has made it quite clear, they are to be started as early as possible.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member give the assurance that the Government of India will press that the negotiations should take place in Delhi and not in London?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I think the House may take it that this point will be duly considered by Government.

APPOINTMENT OF A TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

167. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) whether Government have decided to appoint a taxation enquiry commission to review the entire taxation structure of the country,

(b) its terms of reference and whether they will include the review of the land revenue system also, and

(c) whether Government will await its report before taking any action to abolish or alter any individual tax.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (i) and (b). The matter is under consideration and Government have not come to a final decision.

(c) The point raised by the Honourable Member will be kept in mind. Whether or not a taxation enquiry committee is appointed Government must reserve the right to consider individual cases on their merits.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is it not a fact that during the last Budget Session, the then Finance Member announced in this House that a Taxation Enquiry Committee will be appointed and now the Honourable Member says that the Government of India have not made up their mind yet. Has the decision of the other Government been upset?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That was the old Government and this is a new one!

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: What the then Honourable the Finance Member said was "I propose therefore to set up a Taxation Enquiry Committee in the near future." As Honourable Members know the then Finance Member was here only for a short while after the Budget Session, during which he made certain preliminary investigations for the purpose of setting up this Committee, and the matter and not been concluded before he left. Now that there is a new Government the matter has got to be considered again.

Miss Maniben Kara: Do I have the assurance of the Honourable Member that the interests of the taxpayers also will be represented on this Taxation Enquiry Committee?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I think on the question of representation on the Committee, the then Finance Member made this point quite clear, that it should be an expert rather than a representative body.

Miss Maniben Kara: Does the Honourable Member consider that the taxpayer cannot be represented by an expert on that committee?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: That also has been mentioned—"although care should be taken to obtain the views of all the interests affected,—industry, commerce, agriculture, labour, the consumer, the ordinary taxpayer and lastly, the Administration, both Central and Provincial."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Interim Government has reached a decision in favour of the abolition of the salt tax?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: There is a question on that later on

Sardar Mangal Singh: With reference to part (b) the Honourable Member has said that this suggestion will be kept in view but may I ask the Honourable Member whether he is aware that in reply to the debate in this House the then Finance Member assured the House that the question of land revenue will be one of the terms of reference to this Committee?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: The question here is "whether Government will await its report before taking any action to abolish or alter any individual tax?"

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am referring to part (b) which refers to land revenue.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: That also is mentioned in the then Finance Member's declaration—all questions will be considered by the Taxation Enquiry Committee

IMPRISONED OR DETAINED I N A PERSONNEL

168. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Defence Secretary please state

(a) the number of Indian National Army personnel still imprisoned or detained without trial,

(b) the number of prisoners of the 20th C I H, and

(c) whether Government propose to review their cases and release them forthwith, if not why not?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) (i) The number of military I N A personnel still undergoing sentences of imprisonment is 15

(ii) The number detained without trial is Nil

(b) The number of prisoners of the Central India Horse still serving sentences is nine

(c) The remaining portion of the sentences of the nine men of the Central India Horse has recently been remitted. As regards the I N A personnel, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply to part (e) of Starred Question No. 93, asked by the Honourable Shri Sri Prakasa on the 30th October, 1946

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the civilian section of the I N A?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Defence Department are not responsible for the civilian section of the I N A personnel, but the Home Department

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the answer to my earlier question to which the Honourable Member has referred and the facts stated in the statement that was placed on the table of the House along with the answer to that question may I know the conditions in which these prisoners are kept in the Provinces and whether the Government meets their expenses?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question. I may, however, say about the prisoners that once they are transferred to Provincial Governments they cease to be the responsibility of the Central Government so far as their wellbeing and other matters are concerned

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that in part (b) of the statement that was read on the floor of the House on that occasion it was said that the present rules of the respective Provinces apply to the prisoners that are kept in those Provinces will the Honourable Member make sure that these prisoners are properly treated because I find that some of these are kept in the 'C' class and will the Honourable Member order that they should all be put in 'B' class at least?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have already explained that the moment the military prisoners are transferred to civil jails they become the responsibility of the Provincial Governments concerned and all matters, including the question of classification are the concern of the Provincial Governments

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the Government of India have no hand in forcing the Provincial Governments to treat their prisoners properly? Do the

Provincial Governments meet all the expenses or have the Government of India to pay for them?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have already explained that the Government of India have no say in the matter

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Because they cease to be the responsibility of the Central Government the moment they are transferred to the provincial jails. That is the position. I am not sure about meeting the cost and that was why I asked for notice of that particular question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If it is not the concern of the Government of India even when their own prisoners are transferred to the civil jails of the various provinces, may I know why it should be so? There must be some reason for it.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The reason why some of the military prisoners are transferred to civil jails is that after the expiry of their term, they are no longer to be re-enrolled in the army and therefore they cease to be really the concern of the Central Government.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Whoever may be responsible for the welfare of the prisoners in the Provinces, in view of the clearly expressed opinion of this House, do the Government of India propose to tender advice to the Provincial Governments to see that the prisoners are properly treated?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: If there is any individual case in which the treatment meted out is not satisfactory, we will certainly bring it to the notice of the Provincial Government. From the statement that I have supplied there is only one C class prisoner.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Three according to the statement.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The reason why I say only one is that I believe two of them are civilian internees, who have been included in this statement.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly get those prisoners to Delhi, if the provinces do not treat them properly? As the Honourable Member asked for a specific case, will he also kindly enquire about the prisoner who is in Agra and find out why he has been put in C class?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I will enquire about the particular person the Honourable Member refers to but there is no reason to believe that the Provincial Governments do not treat these prisoners satisfactorily as is implied in the first part of his question.

WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN TROOPS FROM BASRAH

169. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state when all the Indian troops will be withdrawn from the port of Basrah?

(b) Do Government propose to place on the table of the House all paper pertaining to the decision in regard to the despatch of Indian troops to Basrah?

(c) Have Government received any protests from the Government of Iran and Iraq in connection with this matter?

(d) What is the strength of the armed forces at present stationed in Basrah and elsewhere in Iraq?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) I cannot state when all the Indian Troops will be withdrawn from the port of Basrah as the matter is still under the consideration of Government.

(b) No, Sir, it would be contrary to Parliamentary practice to place on the table of the House all papers leading up to an executive decision.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) I am afraid so long as other countries do not disclose the strength of their Armed Forces it would not be advisable to give the strength of Indian Armed Forces abroad.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Whose decision was it to send our troops to Basra? Was it the decision of the British Government or was it an independent decision of the Indian Government?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The decision was taken in consultation with the Government of India.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is in a position to give us an assurance as to the approximate period within which these Indian troops are expected to be recalled from Basra?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I wish I could give that information, but as I have said the matter is under consideration, and I would rather not give a definite date.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In reply to part (a), the Honourable Defence Secretary said that the matter is receiving the consideration of the Government. May I know whether it is the Government here or the War Council in London? And will the Honourable Member make it clear to this House the point as to the restrictions which this Government has got in regard to the movement of Indian troops from India to elsewhere and back again?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I shall repeat the statement which I made the other day that so far as this Government is concerned, their policy is very clear and that is that Indian troops should be withdrawn from all overseas stations. It is, however, subject to our obligations arising from India's past associations with other countries.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question is, have the Government of India an absolutely free hand in this matter? As I know they have not, will the Honourable Member explain to this House the present constitutional position as to what extent the judgment on these matters is taken,—the final decision is taken in London—and to what extent the Government of India are involved in such decisions?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I must confess I am not prepared for the discussion of the constitutional position this morning, but I can give this assurance that whatever views are expressed by the Government of India in a matter like this would very likely—I should say most probably—be acceptable to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What and whose parliamentary practice is followed in putting papers asked for on the table of the House?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I think it is a well-known practice that papers leading up to an executive decision should not be placed on the table of the House, for obvious reasons. Numerous people from the lowest rung of the ladder to the highest record their notes on files, and what the House is, I think, interested in is the final decision of the Government, and not the stages by which that decision has been arrived at.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know when was this decision to send troops to Basra taken?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: In August last.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: May I know the object of keeping these troops in Basra?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That was announced in our press communiqué. I will read that out if my Honourable friend desires it.

"In order that there may be ready at hand for the protection, should circumstances demand it, of Indian, British and Arab lives and in order to safeguard Indian and British interests in South Persia, troops are being sent from India to Basra. There are many hundreds of Indians employed in the oilfields and refineries of South Persia and India depends largely on this source for her vital supplies of petrol."

Diwan Chaman Lal: When was this decision taken?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: This press communiqué was issued on the 3rd August.

DEMobilIZATION OF INDIAN TROOPS

170. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Defence Secretary please state how many Indian troops are still awaiting to be demobilised from the Indian Army?

(b) What is the strength of the Indian Defence Forces at present under the following Services:

- (i) total number of men in the Army,
- (ii) total number of men in the Air Force, and
- (iii) total number of men in the Navy?

Mr G. S. Bhalja: (a) The difference between the strength of Indian Troops on 1st October, 1946, and then strength in the ultimate peace time Indian Army is 669 000

It should, however be noted that the strength of the ultimate peace time army is at present provisional as it has not yet been approved by the Government

(b) The strength of each of the three Services of the Armed Forces (excluding civilians) on the 1st October 1946 was as follows—

(i) Army—	
Officers	32,866
Other ranks	10,23,344
(ii) Air Force—	
Officers	3,748
Airmen	38,475
(iii) Navy—	
Officers	1,252
Warrant Officers, Ratings and WRINS	11,698

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I ask whether the figures given by him will be maintained during the post-war period or will they be reduced considerably later on?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: This is the strength as existing at present. It is going of course to be considerably reduced in the course of demobilisation, and as I just now said the ultimate size of the defence force has not yet been finally determined by Government.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: May I ask the number of airmen who have applied for permanent commissions?

Mr G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question. It does not directly arise out of this.

REVISION OF PAY OF MEN IN CIVIL AND MILITARY SERVICES

171. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Defence Secretary please state whether Government have under consideration the revision of pay of men in the services, the Army, the Air Force and the Navy?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Yes. Government have already appointed a Committee to make recommendations on the post-war pay, allowances and pensions of the three Defence Services. The constitution of the Committee and its terms of reference were announced in a press note on the 29th January, 1946.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Is the Government aware that it is due to the inaction on the part of Government regarding the announcement of the pay of the airmen that there are not enough volunteers to serve the air forces permanently?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Government are very well aware of the disturbing consequences of uncertainty, particularly uncertainty about the question of pay and pensions, but unfortunately the Government in the Defence Department cannot come to a unilateral decision on the questions of pay, etc., until and unless they

have seen the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission which the Government of India have appointed. Obviously the two should be correlated as far as possible.

Lt-Col Dr J O Chatterjee: With reference to the reply just now given, why this question not referred to the Pay Commission and why was it not considered that the two commissions should sit jointly or at any rate consult each other?

Mr. G S Bhalja: As I said, this committee was appointed early in January of this year, when the idea of appointing a Central Pay Commission to examine the questions of pay and emoluments of the civil services came up at a later stage—if I mistake not, as a result of an impending strike in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what the strength of this committee is and if there are any Indians on it?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I answered that question fully on the last occasion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That there is no Indian on it?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: There is Mr. Dayal of the Military Finance Department on the committee. I promised to examine the suggestion made in this Honourable House about the possibility of finding other suitable Indian officers to sit on this committee.

REMARKS OF DR HUGH DALTON, CHANCELLOR OF EXCHEQUER *re* RECOVERY OF STERLING BALANCES

172. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the remarks by Dr Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, relating to negotiations for the sterling balances of India and his iteration in this connection that the terms of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement would be fully carried out?

(b) Did Government put forward any clear statement of India's case in order to counteract the propaganda against Indian interests in this connection?

(c) What steps have Government taken to secure early recovery of the sterling balances?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The position has been explained in the course of the Honourable Finance Member's speech on the motion on the Bretton Woods Agreements on the 28th October, 1946. The Government of India are in correspondence with His Majesty's Government with the object of having the sterling balances negotiations as early as practicable.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that India gave these sterling balances, or was made to give these sterling balances, in the course of five years and in view of the fact that according to the Anglo-American Agreement Britain is claiming that the bulk of these sterling balances would not begin to be repaid for six years more and that the actual repayment would cover a period of 50 years, in other words in view of the absurd position taken up by the United Kingdom under the Anglo-American Loan Agreement by which the Chancellor of the Exchequer swears, will Government put forward India's side of the case and say—what you took in five years you cannot claim 56 years for repayment?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: In the first place I must say that the presumption in these questions is not quite correct. There is no such demand made officially by the British Government that they would pay in 56 years. What my Honourable friend is referring to is the terms of the Anglo-American Agreement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Clause 10.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: A portion of the sterling balances will be paid immediately, a second portion, being funded, will be paid over a period of years (it does not mention 56 years) and a third will be adjusted. Now, so far as the question of our having paid in five years and receiving in 56 years is concerned, my Honourable friend knows very well that it was not money that we paid. It was war supplies that we gave and it has got to be fully repaid in the form of goods and services and they must necessarily take a number of years. So far as taking up the question with H. M. G. is concerned, naturally it cannot be taken up piecemeal but it will be taken up along with the sterling balance negotiations.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has not my Honourable friend seen the suggestion officially made from the U. S. A. as well as from the U. K. that no payment should begin to be made for six years, that is, until 1951 and that after that, payment would be made over 50 years by such instalments as may be fixed. In view of the claim made for such extension of payment, will not the Government of India take proper steps in order to counter the propaganda that what the British Government took from us in five years they will be able to repay only in 56 years?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: Sir, as I said, the whole thing must be considered in connection with the sterling balances negotiations. So far as the propaganda is concerned, it is not official and the Government of India will take such steps as they consider proper.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that Sir William Edie is coming out to settle the question of the sterling balances with the Government of India?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: As I said, the question of negotiations is under discussion with the H. M. G.

GOLD PAR VALUE OF THE RUPEE

173. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member reached any conclusion with regard to the gold par value of the rupee? If so, by what process, on the strength of what materials, and what is the conclusion?

(b) What is the officially accepted value of gold in India?

(c) Have Government any information as to changes in the official value of gold in any of the important countries?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) No, Sir.

(b) None.

(c) From the information available the only countries that have changed the gold value of their currency recently are Canada and Sweden. In the former case the gold value of the Canadian Dollar was altered from 0.80768 grammes of fine gold per dollar to 0.888671 grammes of fine gold with effect from the 6th July, 1946, while in the case of the latter, the value of the Kronner was altered from 0.211595 grammes of fine gold to 0.246914 grammes of fine gold with effect from the 18th July, 1946.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In respect to (b), will the Honourable Finance Secretary tell this House at what rate the Reserve Bank is bound to buy gold if it is tendered to it?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: It is not bound.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the very vast fluctuations and the great speculation occurring with regard to the bullion markets in Bombay, will Government consider the desirability of checking the speculation by stopping the forward trade in gold in view of the importance of gold in the International Fund or in any case will Government see that the rules under which the associations are working for the sale of gold—future transactions—are constantly seen and revised both by the Reserve Bank and the Government?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: Government's attention has been drawn to the present condition of the bullion market and they are considering the necessary steps to counter the present tendencies

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the official value of gold in India?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: There is no official value of gold in India

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the gold sold to the highest bidder by the Reserve Bank?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: The Reserve Bank is not selling gold at present

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the gold is sold for foreign banks by the Reserve Bank?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: Not at present

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: When was it stopped?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I have not got the date. It was stopped nearly a year ago

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: It was not stopped during the last session of the Assembly. I put this question repeatedly. They are selling it and accepting some commission

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: So far as I am aware, the actual date when the gold sales was stopped was given

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: You may make a reference. You will find that I am correct that the Reserve Bank

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will address the question to the Chair

MONOPOLIES IN THE INTERMEDIATE BOARD, AJMER

174. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state if Government are aware that Checkership, Tabulation and Inspectorship of the Intermediate Board, Ajmer, remain the close monopoly of a few persons only and that more than half of the names on the list of these office holders have been appearing for the last fifteen years? If so, what steps Government propose to take to break this monopoly?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The Honourable Member apparently refers to the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, Rajputana, Central India and Gwalior

The question relates to the internal administration of the Board. The Chairman of the Board, Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, is a member of this House. I propose to bring the question to his notice

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: With reference to the reply given by the Honourable Member may I bring to your notice the constitutional position? I am asking for your ruling on a point of order. This Board is a Federation of the Indian States of Rajputana, Central India and Gwalior. It has been created by a Resolution of the Political Department. The Government of India have never paid one penny towards its maintenance. Now, Sir, I would like your ruling whether a question of this kind where the Board is not the concern of the Governor General in Council can be discussed in this House, as the matter is one for the Indian States?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I can help Dr. Chatterjee to understand the position. The Educational Adviser of the Government of India is the controlling authority of the Board.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: The Controlling authority is the agent of the Political Department.

RESULTS OF DEMONETIZATION OF CURRENCY NOTES

175. *Shri Sri Prakasa : Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) the total amount of Government currency notes that were demonetized during the last financial year 1945-46,

(b) the amount that Government ultimately paid for these notes to the holders thereof,

(c) the amount of profit that Government made by this Ordinance,

(d) if any persons whom it was the intention of the Ordinance to catch, were actually caught and if so, how many, and to what extent they suffered losses, and if any further action was taken against them,

(e) if Government are satisfied that no innocent persons have suffered as a result of this Ordinance, and

(f) the results of the scrutiny held in the reasons the holders gave for having the notes in their possession as required by the relevant Ordinance?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : (a) Rs 14,96,69,000

(b) Government have not ceased to make payments in exchange for these notes, but the total payment made up till the 11th October, 1946 was Rs 128,59,89,500

(c) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply to part (c) of Sardar Mangul Singh's starred question No 73 on the 30th October, 1946

(d) The Ordinance has so far resulted in seven prosecutions, all of which are as yet *sub judice*. Several other cases for prosecution are under consideration

(e) No claims have so far been refused, and Government are satisfied that no loss has been caused to innocent persons presenting High Denomination notes for encashment

(f) As the scrutiny of the declarations filed is continuing, Government are, as yet, unable to indicate its result

Shri Sri Prakasa : With reference to the reply given to Sardar Mangul Singh's question on an earlier occasion, may I infer that the Government expects to make 20 crores of rupees from this transaction?

An Honourable Member : Where is the harm?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : In reply to another question we mentioned the amounts which had already been paid. It has already been mentioned that 128.59 crores have already been repaid. I am afraid 20 crores is not likely to be realised. Even the present difference is only about 15 crores.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that soon after the ordinance was issued, currency notes of the value of Rs 1,000 were sold in Delhi for Rs 500? Enquiries showed that some very highly placed officials of the Supply Department were seen busy making transactions.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : There are various reports, but the Government is unaware of it.

Shri Sri Prakasa : With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, is he not aware that a lady in Karachi died of heart failure as soon as she heard of this Ordinance? If so, may I know whether the Honourable Member has punched her thousand rupee notes and if not what has happened to them?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : The Government is not aware of this, and if the lady died I do not know whether it was genuine or not.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : With reference to the reply of the Honourable Member to my supplementary question, may I ask whether it is a fact that particular mention was made in the local press about these transactions? If so, may I know if any action was taken by Government or Government propose to make necessary inquiries in the matter?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: This very question was asked on a previous occasion on this matter in the Assembly and it was pointed out by the Government Member then that as soon as this report came to the notice of the Government of India instructions were issued to all the District Magistrates to be on the watch for such cases and take action.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will not the principle adumbrated this morning by the Honourable the Education Member apply here also to the effect that permanent officials should not be victimised?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I do not see the point of the question.

ABOLITION OF SALT TAX

176 *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

- (a) if it is a fact that Government are considering the abolition of the salt-tax;
- (b) if so, when the proposals are likely to come into effect;
- (c) what will be the loss to revenue; and
- (d) what arrangements Government propose to make for the production and distribution of salt in the future?

Sir John Sheehy: (i) to (d). The Honourable the Finance Member hopes to be able to make a statement shortly.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member enlighten the House as to the amount by which the price of salt will be reduced when the salt tax is abolished?

Sir John Sheehy: The duty on salt at present is Re 1-9-0 per maund and the cost of manufacture of salt is about 4 annas. Anyhow, the price ought to be reduced by Re 1-9-0, which is the amount of the duty.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government assure this House that steps will be taken to see that the salt supplied to the public is clean and that the amount of the deleterious kind of salt which the poor man manages to get will be reduced and will not be increased by the abolition of the duty?

Sir John Sheehy: I think we can give that undertaking.

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: Has the Honourable Member abolished the system of giving monopoly for the sale of salt in the districts to individuals?

Sir John Sheehy: That will be considered, but that was necessary in order to insure an adequate supply of salt in the various districts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask if there will be still monopolies even when the salt tax is abolished?

Sir John Sheehy: I do not know whether the salt tax will be abolished and I cannot answer hypothetical questions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I had already asked one supplementary question—is it not true that the Interim Government had already reached a decision that the salt tax should be abolished?

Sir John Sheehy: I cannot answer that question.

*177 [Withdrawn]

PROGRESS OF WORK BY THE PAY COMMISSION

178 *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

- (a) the progress so far made by the Pay Commission;
- (b) the period of time for which they are expected to sit further; and
- (c) the approximate date by which their report is likely to be ready?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) The Pay Commission have under consideration the large mass of representations sent, in the first instance, by associations of Government employees and others as also the replies received to the Commission's questionnaire. At present the Commission are in the stage of taking the oral evidence of representatives of staff associations and of Government officials in elucidation of the points made in the replies.

(b) It is expected that they will sit till the end of the current financial year, but, if the programme is slowed down by the fact that the Members of the Commission have also to attend to legislative business, the work of the Commission may have to be prolonged till the end of June 1947.

(c) The report is likely to be ready within the period indicated above for the sitting of the Commission, but it is expected that Government will be informed of the preliminary views of the Commission by the end of January 1947.

Miss Maniben Kara: Is the Honourable Member aware that the strike of the workers all over India, particularly of the railway employees, was suspended as a result of the assurance given that the Pay Commission will hurry up with their results as early as possible?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: That is true, but the whole question has to be considered for all the Government services and the Pay Commission cannot take up the question of one particular service only.

Miss Maniben Kara: Is the Honourable Member aware that there was an All-India strike of the Posts and Telegraphs workers also and they were also assured to await the result of this Pay Commission? Is he also aware that a terrible feeling of discontent prevails among the workers owing to this delay in publishing the report and finishing their inquiry?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: Government is fully aware of the whole situation, but, as I have explained, the Commission must take its time because the whole question is very complicated.

Mr. S. Guruswami: Is it not a fact that certain Provincial Governments have been already advised by the Central Pay Commission about the pay structure of certain categories of staff?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I must ask for notice of this question.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Pay Commission takes evidence for over seven hours a day and that it is humanly impossible to take evidence for more than seven hours at a stretch?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that the Government had promised to direct the Pay Commission to take up the investigation of pay and salaries in the Railway Department first before they directed their attention to the other Departments of the Government of India?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: That is true, but the Commission said that they must deal in a single report with the whole question of salaries of all Central Government services.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Pay Commission gone into the salaries of the railway employees at all till now?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I am sorry I do not know the exact stage which the Commission has reached.

Miss Maniben Kara: Do we have the assurance that the report of the Commission will be completed by the end of this year as they had promised in the beginning?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I have said in my reply that the Commission hopes to finish their report by the end of the financial year; but, as I pointed out, if the time of other Members is taken up on account of the legislative business, it will have to be prolonged.

CULTIVATION AND MANUFACTURE OF OPIUM IN INDIA

179. *Shri Sri Prakasa : Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

- (a) the amount of opium cultivated and manufactured in India during the financial year 1945-46,
- (b) the amount sold in India and the amount exported abroad,
- (c) the countries to which opium is exported,
- (d) the amount of profit made by Government by such sale, and
- (e) if any countries have protested against the export of opium to them?

Sir John Sheehy: (a) In the Government Opium Factories at Ghazipur and Neemuch accounts are maintained for the opium season, i.e. from October to September. The information furnished below is accordingly for the opium season year ended 30th September 1945 in so far as the two factories are concerned. Information in respect of certain Indian States which produce opium is not readily available

The quantity cultivated, by which I take it the Honourable Member means, produced and the quantity manufactured was 14,650 maunds and 8,844 maunds respectively.

(b) The total quantity of opium sold in India and the quantity exported abroad was 6,740 maunds and 1,890 maunds respectively

(c) Since 1936 opium is normally supplied to the countries with which there is a close geographical or long-standing political link, namely, the French and Portuguese Settlements in India, Nepal, Burma, Zanzibar (including Pemba), Aden and the United Kingdom

(d) The amount of profit made on opium exported from India during the aforesaid year was Rs 28,75,000. Opium issued for internal consumption in India, to the Provincial Governments and Indian States is sold at cost price

(e) None

Breejut Bohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I ask in what provinces of India opium is not sold at all?

Sir John Sheehy: I should like to have notice of that question, but I think it is prohibited in Assam. But I would not say that it is not sold there.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that no opium is exported to China?

Sir John Sheehy: That is so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: While exporting opium to foreign countries, is care taken to see that opium sent to other countries is used only for medical purposes?

Sir John Sheehy: Yes, it is.

REPATRIATION OF INDIAN PRISONERS IN ALLIED HANDS

180. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state :

- (a) how many Indians—outside India—are still either prisoners in the Allied hands or are exiles;
- (b) the machinery which the Government of India can use for getting whereabouts and other particulars direct in respect of such men;
- (c) whether the Government of India have entered into direct diplomatic relations with the Allied powers for the above purpose,
- (d) what steps are being taken by this Government for repatriating such persons to India; and
- (e) the Government policy in the matter?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for External Affairs. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 7th November, 1946, when it will be answered by him.

FUNDS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DESTITUTE HOMES

181. *Seth Govind Das : (a) Will the Secretary for Health Department please state if Government have ever given any consideration to the estimate of funds required for the establishment of destitute homes?

(b) Will he take the Lucknow 'Poor Home' as a suitable basis for such estimates?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) The question was considered in 1944 in connection with the establishment of a Poor Home in Delhi.

(b) The provision made in Lucknow was considered when the Delhi scheme was drawn up.

TEST FOR MINISTERIAL STAFF IN THE INCOME-TAX OFFICES IN SIND

182. *Seth Sukhdev : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Income-tax Commissioner, Bombay, introduced a test for the ministerial staff in Income-tax Offices in Sind in 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that clerks in the lower grade irrespective of age or service were required to appear for the test?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that some persons who were on the eve of retirement were reverted for not securing a certain standard in the test?

(d) Is it a fact that the persons who were reverted were subsequently promoted after a year or so, ignoring the result of the said test?

(e) If the reply to part (d) is in the affirmative, why were they not allowed the difference of pay due to them for the intervening period?

Sir John Sheehy: (a) and (b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies to parts (a) and (b) of his question No. 1044, on the 19th March, 1946.

(c) I am not aware of any such cases.

(d) Yes, some persons have been so promoted to officiate temporarily, as it was not possible to secure more efficient men to fill the posts which had to be filled to try and clear the arrears.

(e) Because they did not hold during the intervening period the posts carrying the higher pay and discharge the duties pertaining to those posts.

NEW SCALES OF PAY FOR OLD CLERKS IN INCOME-TAX OFFICE, SIND WHO WERE REVERTED AND THEN PROMOTED

183. *Seth Sukhdev : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that on introduction of the new scales of pay from the 1st January, 1945, the salaries of the old clerks in the Income-tax Offices in Sind and Baluchistan who were reverted and subsequently promoted were re-fixed on the new scales?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, why were their salaries fixed at a lower stage than their juniors, in spite of their longer service in higher grades?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that on introduction of new posts of Upper Division Clerks in Sind and Baluchistan, senior persons, though performing more important duties, are drawing less salaries than their juniors doing less important duties? If so, why?

(d) Do Government propose to afford relief to the affected staff?

Sir John Sheehy: (a) Yes.

(b) This happened in some individual cases under the ordinary application of the rules, because they did not have a substantive right to the higher scale of pay, but when the hardship was brought to the notice of Government special orders to remove it were issued.

- (c) I am not aware of any such cases
(d) Does not arise

IMPROVEMENT AND MARKETING OF BETEL-NUTS

184. *Sri A. Menon : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state what grant was allotted for the purpose of financing measures designed to improve the production and marketing of betel-nuts for 1946-47? And what is the amount spent so far for the purpose?

(b) Were any applications for help received from duly constituted Co-operative Societies or other recognised bodies of betel-nut growers of the Malabar District received by Government? Was any help given to them?

(c) Do Government propose to call for a report from the Madras Government on the working of the above Society or Societies, and if the report are favourable, to tender them and before the betel-nut season is over?

Sr John Sheehy: The question should have been addressed to the Secretary of the Agriculture Department. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 11th November 1946 when it will be answered by the Secretary of the Agriculture Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SARGENT REPORT

185. *Mr. Madandhari Singh : Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to lay on the table of the House a comprehensive statement indicating the action that has been taken or is proposed to be taken on the principal recommendations of the Sargent Report?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: A fairly comprehensive statement is laid on the table of the House.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

statement indicating the action that has been taken or is proposed to be taken on the principal recommendations of the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education (Sargent Report) on Post War Educational Development in India

The Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post War Educational Development in India popularly called the Sargent Report was published in January 1944. In October 1945 the Government of India accepted generally, the principles and the objects of the Report.

The decision of the Government of India was conveyed to the Provincial Governments and they were asked to prepare their educational development plans in the light of the main recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education. All the Provincial Governments with the exception of that of N.W.F.P. have now prepared their first five year programme of educational expansion. The Centrally Administered Areas and the Central Government have also prepared their five year plans, which are complementary to the plans prepared by the Provinces. This entire programme proposed involves a total expenditure of Rs. 125 crores approximately. The schemes are being examined by this Government with a view to according their final approval. Some of the plans received from the Provincial Governments are still tentative but their finalised plans are expected very shortly.

The Provincial Governments have been requested to embark forthwith on schemes selected out of the Five-Year Plans, which are of an urgent character. As far as Education is concerned, schemes regarding higher technical education, the training of teachers and educational facilities for ex-servicemen received high priority. These schemes have been examined by the Government of India and those found suitable have been sanctioned for immediate execution.

In the first quinquennium a reasonable provision has been made in the Provincial and Central Plans towards the following essential requirements—

1. *Universal Compulsory and free basic (Primary and Middle) education for all boys and girls between the ages of 6-14.*—The Provincial and Central schemes of basic education cater both for boys and girls except in Sind and N.W.F.P. whose plans have not yet been finalised. Bihar, Orissa, Madras, the United Provinces and the Centrally Administered Areas have agreed to provide for compulsory basic (primary and middle) education in due course for the entire age-group of 6-14, the remaining Provincial Governments have not made it clear if it is their objective to cater for the entire age-group 6-14 though they have made provision for the age-group 6-11 in the first instance. The rate of progress is—

determined by the availability of trained teachers. The total expenditure proposed in the Provincial plans on basic (primary and middle) education, including indirect expenditure on the training of teachers, inspection, school meals, amounts to Rs 56.95 crores (Rs 20.52 crores capital and Rs 36.43 crores recurring) which is about 58 per cent of the total expenditure on Provincial education schemes. The total expenditure on basic (primary and middle) education during the quinquennium in Central areas will approximate to Rs 1.9 crores (Capital Rs 1.14 crores, recurring Rs .79 crores).

Most Provinces have also agreed that the education to be imparted at earlier stages, would be through the medium of creative activities.

2 Technical and Commercial Education—The Government of India have initiated a scheme in co-operation with the Provincial Governments under which they are sending approximately 500 scholars each year abroad for higher technical training and scientific research. It would cost the Central Government approximately Rs 3.60 crores over the five year period. An All-India Council for Technical Education has already been set up to make a survey of the needs of the country as a whole and recommend ways and means to meet her urgent requirements. The Provinces have made the following additional provision in the five-year period:

(1) Establishment of 160 new Institutions (105 Junior Technical and Vocational Schools, 35 Technical High Schools, 16 Polytechnics and 4 Engineering Colleges.)

(2) Expansion and reorganisation of 32 Junior Technical Institutions, 12 Technical High Schools and 10 Engineering Colleges.

The total capital expenditure for the above schemes will amount to Rs 7.1 crores and the recurring expenditure in the five year period will total to Rs 4.43 crores and the ultimate recurring expenditure per year will be about 2.14 crores. While the Provincial plans propose generally to improve facilities for turning semi-skilled and skilled craftsmen, foremen and chargemen and some engineers, the training of high grade engineers and technologists (designers, planners, research workers, production experts, etc.) to take up positions of trust and responsibility in industry will be provided by the two proposed Central Higher Technological Institutions each with an annual output of 1,000 engineers and technologists costing 3 crores in capital and 46 crores annually in recurring expenditure. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Delhi Polytechnic will also be strengthened considerably. These four institutions together with other Provincial colleges will ensure an annual output of about 4,000 engineers and technologists in the quinquennium. It is also proposed to set up a Technical Teachers' Training College to train teachers for Technical High Schools and Senior Technical Institutions. The Central schemes are expected to cost about Rs 8.48 crores in capital and Rs 2.96 crores total recurring expenditure over five years and with an ultimate recurring expenditure of Rs 1.06 crores per year.

The Provincial and Central schemes for the five year period on technical education will involve an expenditure of about Rs 23 crores (capital Rs 16 crores and recurring Rs 7 crores).

3 Adult Education—The expenditure proposed by Provincial Governments on Adult Education in the first quinquennium is Rs 2.10 crores which is about 22 per cent of the total expenditure on all provincial education schemes.

4 University Education and Research—It is proposed to spend approximately Rs 2.54 crores on the three Universities (Delhi Rs 1.14 crores, Aligarh Rs 70 lakhs and Benares Rs 70 lakhs) during the quinquennium to strengthen the Universities and bring them upto the standard prevalent in other educationally advanced countries. Benares and Aligarh Universities will be assisted to set up a Medical College each to teach up to the degree standard. Provincial Governments in their development plans have made some provision for strengthening the provincial universities. They propose to spend approximately Rs 5.24 crores in the next quinquennium.

The National Institute of Sciences will advise the Government of India on all scientific matters. It is also contemplated to give substantial grant in aid to all India research Institutes which are in a position to promote higher scientific research and it is proposed to spend about Rs 75 lakhs for promotion of scientific research in educational institutions in the quinquennium.

Other Educational Schemes—The Five-Year Plans also include a reasonable provision for strengthening secondary education with a view to meeting the requirements of professional and technical colleges, for the training of teachers and for the improvement of the health of the school child. Special attention has been paid to women's education to make up for the present deficiency.

The Department of Education of the Government of India have also prepared a number of schemes which have been approved by the Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet. It is proposed to start a post graduate Training College for men and women, a Training College for Physical Education and to reorganize the present Lady Irwin College for Domestic Science, by next year in Delhi. A grant has been paid to Visva-Bharati for training of teachers on the lines recommended by the Board and a grant is being paid for the same purpose to Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, where a scheme for training of teachers has already started. A proposal for reorganising the Marri College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow on an All India basis is also under consideration in the Department of Education.

CONTROL ON CAPITAL ISSUES.

†186. *Mr. Vadlal Lalubhai : Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to explain the necessity of continuing the control on Capital Issues even now when the war has ended ?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar. The control is being continued as offering a first instalment of a National Investment Policy designed to secure a balanced investment of the country's resources in industry, agriculture and the social services .

INDIAN TROOPS IN IRAN

187. *Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad : Will the Defence Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that both Congress and Muslim League have been demanding that Indian troops should not be sent abroad ,

(b) if it is a fact that the Interim Government gave its consent for sending the Indian troops to Iran , and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to see the withdrawal of all the troops ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No orders for sending troops to Iran were passed by the present Government, in fact, there are no Indian troops in that country

(c) Steps are being taken for the progressive withdrawal of Indian troops abroad

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: Does the Honourable Member know that a convention was started in 1938 in which the then Viceroy agreed that no Indian troops would be sent outside India except with the consent and after consultation with the Party Leaders in this House?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Yes, Sir This question referred particularly to the despatch of troops to Iran If you permit me, Sir, I am prepared to answer the question now raised in a general way

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: When the convention is in existence, why there are any troops outside India and how is it that these troops have been sent away?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: A statement was made on the floor of the House that in so far as considerations of time and secrecy permit the Government will consult the Legislature before Indian troops are sent overseas for purposes not connected with the defence of India

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Defence Secretary or the Honourable Defence Member take an opportunity sometime during this session to make a clear statement to this House on the constitutional disabilities of India in regard to military matters generally and particularly in regard to the despatch and withdrawal of Indian troops from abroad?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: We will examine the suggestion

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member explain the position? In one part of his answer he says there are no Indian troops in Iran, and in another part he says that steps are being taken for the progressive withdrawal of Indian troops from abroad.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Part (b) of the question referred to the despatch of troops to Iran, whereas part (c) is in general terms, whether Government propose to take steps to see the withdrawal of all the troops This we understood to imply that it referred not only to troops in Iran, but in other places.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

TRAINING OF INDIAN PERSONNEL FOR THE ARMED FORCES

188. *Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad : (a) Will the Defence Secretary please lay on the table of the House a statement about the steps which he is contemplating to take for the training of Indian Personnel for Army, Navy and Air forces ?

(b) Will the training for the three categories of the fighting forces be common or separate ?

(c) How many Indians are competent to take the command of brigade and regiments ?

(d) What is the policy of the Government of India in appointing foreigners non-Britishers and non-Indians for the defence of India ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja. (a) and (b) Officers.—The intention of Government is that on the opening of the National War Academy the majority of officers will start their training together at the institution. On completion of their Academy course they will be graded commissions and thereafter training in all three Services will be continuous throughout an officer's career. It will consist partly of training in units and partly of courses of instruction at various schools. All three Services have established in India Service schools for various specialised training. Training is normally put to each Service but there are from time to time joint inter-Service exercises and inter-Service training problems are co-ordinated by an inter-Service committee. In Pakistan all training is carried out in India and from Indian resources, except in the case of a few highly specialised officers who still have to go to the United Kingdom.

Other Ranks.—All training of ratings and other ranks, both basic and specialised training, is given in this country, although occasionally ratings from the Royal Indian Navy are sent overseas for more specialised duties not previously undertaken by the R.I.N., e.g., on manning duties. But the same principle is followed for other ranks as for officers in that training is continuous in units and specialists are deputed from time to time to specialist schools.

(c) So far, in accordance with the normal machinery, seven Indians have been accepted as suitable for command of brigades or sub-divisions, and 82 for command of regiments or battalions.

(d) The policy of the Government of India is not to appoint any foreigners except as Advisers or in technical jobs.

Shri Sri Prakasa. With reference to part (a), will the Honourable Member kindly let us know what training is given to Vice-Chancellors of Indian Universities before they are conferred the title of Lieutenant-Colonel ? Are the Government also satisfied with the manner in which they put on the ill-fitting uniforms ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja. I am not sure whether this derision is deserved by the Vice-Chancellors. I suggest that this supplementary question does not arise out of this question.

Shri Sri Prakasa. This part (a) of the question refers to the training of Indian Personnel for Army, Navy and Air forces ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja. This 'Indian Personnel', we take it as meaning personnel in the defence services and not non-official gentlemen.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad. May I suggest that if my Honourable friend is so anxious he can take these titles ? But I wish to ask.

Mr. President. No more question on this point.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi. May I know, out of seven Brigadiers, how many belong to each section of the population of this country ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja. I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee. With reference to part (a) may I know whether it is the intention of the Government to close down the academy in Dehra Dun after the new Academy has been established ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Government have not yet received the report of the National War Academy Committee. So far as one can see at present it is the intention, that on the establishment of the National War Academy that we envisage the academy at Dehra Dun will be probably converted into a feeder school.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is there any truth in the rumour that the National War Academy is going to be shifted from Poona to the North?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Government have not yet received the report of the National War Academy Committee and they have not yet come to any final decision on this question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it finally decided to establish this National War Academy at Poona?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That is the tentative decision of the Government.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee: In reply to the supplementary question asked by me, may I ask further whether the Honourable Member considers that one training academy whether at Poona or elsewhere would be sufficient for the needs of training officers in all the three branches of the armed service for so vast a country as India?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, that was prominently the question which was referred to the committee for advice by Government and when the report is received by Government, I have no doubt that the question will be re-examined finally.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I have an assurance that at least this report will not be treated as secret?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No, Sir the report will be made public.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will this House be given an opportunity to discuss the report?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: If the House so desires, Government will certainly have no objection, but I thought it would suffice if the report were first placed before the Defence Consultative Committee which is a Committee of this House.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ABOLITION OF SALT TAX

189. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Government have considered the question of abolishing Salt Tax,

(b) whether Government are aware of the demand and desire in the country for the abolition of the said tax as early as possible,

(c) how the consideration of the matter stands at present; and

(d) the difficulties, if any, standing in the way of immediate abolition of the said tax?

Sir John Sheehy: (a) to (d) The Honourable the Finance Member hopes to be able to make a statement shortly.

PERMISSION FOR CAPITAL ISSUES

190. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that complaints are frequently made about discriminatory treatment in the matter of granting permission for capital issues and

(b) whether Government propose to have an ad hoc committee for supervising capital issues and for going into the complaints?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) The Government have received no complaints of discriminatory treatment.

(b) The Government have not considered such a course necessary

INFLATION DUE TO ABNORMAL NUMBER OF CURRENCY NOTES IN CIRCULATION

191 *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) the amount, in currency notes in circulation in 1939 and the amount in currency notes in circulation at present,

(b) whether Government are aware that the abnormal number of notes in circulation constitutes inflationary danger affecting prices of even essential commodities,

(c) whether Government propose to take steps in order to bring down inflation, and

(d) the highest figure in money of notes in circulation after the cessation of hostilities?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) The note circulation in 1939 averaged Rs 186 49 crores

The note circulation on the 25th October 1946, which is the latest date for which information is available, was Rs 1,195 18 crores

(b) The danger does not arise in the case of most of the essential commodities as their prices are controlled. Other commodities which are not subject to price control are doubtless exposed to inflationary pressure on prices in present circumstances

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad's starred question No 103, on the 30th October, 1946

(d) The highest figure was reached in June 1946, when it amounted to Rs 1,241 97 crores

NOTICES UNDER U P TOWN IMPROVEMENT ACT ON RESIDENTS OF DELHI, WARD NO 14 (SERAI PURANI IDGAH SCHEME)

192 *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddhar (a) Will the Honourable the Member for Health be pleased to state whether notices issued under sections 36 and 38 of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act 1919, as extended to the Province of Delhi have been served on the residents of Delhi, Ward No 14 (Serai Purani Idgah Scheme, Part I) to enforce the said scheme?

(b) In view of the fact that housing problem in Delhi is very acute, do Government propose to withdraw the scheme in the interest of the people who will otherwise be adversely affected, if not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulmam: (a) Notices under section 36 of the Act have been served but the scheme has not yet been sanctioned

(b) The matter is under consideration

PROTEST AGAINST THE SERAI PURANI IDGAH SCHEME, PART I, IN DELHI

193 *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddhar (a) Is the Honourable the Member for Health aware of the fact that a representation from the inhabitants of Ward No. 14, Delhi, was sent to the Chairman, Delhi Improvement Trust, on the 31st March, 1942, protesting against the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme, Part I?

(b) Are Government aware that in reply to the representation referred in part (a) above, the Chairman, Delhi Improvement Trust, in his letter No. G/46(5)42, dated the 16th April, 1942, promised to give the inhabitants a chance to put their objections before the Committee appointed by the Trust?

(c) Has any such Committee been appointed for hearing objections? If not, when the same is likely to be appointed?

(d) Has the Committee actually resumed hearing objections from people? If so, what is the result?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) No joint representation was received by the Chairman, Delhi Improvement Trust, but a number of individual objections to the scheme were received in the office of the Trust in February and March 1942.

(b) Yes. A reply to that effect was addressed to one of the people who made representations.

(c) and (d) Yes. A committee of three Trustees was appointed in May 1942. It met on the 20th November, 1942, and heard the objections from the various persons concerned. The committee's recommendations regarding each objection were taken into consideration by the Delhi Improvement Trust.

REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST THE SERAI PURANI IDGAH SCHEME IN DELHI

194 *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Has the Honourable the Member for Health received any representation from the residents of Ward No. 14, Delhi, during the month of October 1946, against the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme, Part I? If so, do Government propose to take steps to redress their grievances? If not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: Yes. The matter is under consideration.

STEPS TO CHECK THE RISING OF PRICES AND WAGES

195 *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what steps Government are taking in order to check the rising spiral of prices and wages?

(b) What steps Government are taking to deal with the menace of unspent money represented by a large pile of deposits in banks in India?

(c) What is the total amount of Treasury Bills outstanding up to the 30th of September 1946?

(d) What is the total debt of India upto the 30th of September 1946?

(e) How much of the 3½ per cent Paper was converted and how much was paid out in cash?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) and (b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's starred question No. 105 on the 9th October, 1946.

(c) Rs. 77 crores.

(d) Rs. 1,528 crores approximately.

(e) On the basis of the advices received so far, out of a total outstanding balance of Rs. 278 crores of the 3½ per cent paper, about Rs. 257 crores has been converted and Rs. two crores paid out in cash.

REASONS FOR MAINTAINING CAPITAL CONTROL

196 *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state why Government are maintaining the capital control?

(b) Have Government got any plan, which will enable them to give priority to enterprises necessary for the country and check outlay in directions, which are unnecessary or which can be postponed and delayed?

(c) What is the total number of companies and the capital issued by them in each of the years 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47 (upto 30th September 1946),

(d) What is the amount of money directed to be placed in Government securities under these provisions?

(e) When do Government propose to release these funds and have Government considered the full effect of such release and provided for it?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) The control, which was introduced as a war-time measure, is being continued as offering a first instalment of a National Investment Policy designed to secure a balanced investment of the country's resources in industry, agriculture and the social services

(b) No such plan as is referred to has been worked out to cover the whole field of capital expenditure, but the control is exercised to ensure that there is no capital issue for schemes which are contrary to the development plans which have been prepared for any field by the Central or Provincial Government

(c) The statistics recorded by the Examiner of Capital Issues are not available by financial years. They show that consent orders were passed in favour of the following total amounts

From 17th May 1943, when the control began to 30th September 1945, 260 crores and 36 lakhs of rupees (3,784 companies),

1st October 1945 to 30th September 1946, 206 crores and 41 lakhs of rupees (856 companies)

It will be realised that the figures do not represent the amount of capital actually subscribed under these consent orders still less the amount actually paid up

(d) Orders have been issued to date imposing the condition about investment in respect of a total of 195 crores of rupees. The condition becomes effective only as the capital is subscribed and paid-up, and the amount actually invested up-to-date is about 18 crores

(e) The Government propose to release these funds as and when the payments for which they have been earmarked (usually imported machinery) fall due. The Government have considered the probable effect of the releases but have concluded that no special provision is necessary, as the process of release will be a gradual one

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MUSLIMS IN THE ARMY

197. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state if Government have received any complaints during the recent weeks of concrete instances showing how Muslims are discriminated against in the Army?

(b) Do Government propose to make their policy and the position clear and remove all doubts by concrete action that no such policy of discrimination is in force and that Government's policy is not anti-Muslim in any sense?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Government are not aware of any complaints made during recent weeks giving concrete instances of discrimination against Muslims in the Army. There have, however, been a few press reports of such discrimination which were investigated and found to be incorrect

(b) I can assure the Honourable Member that the policy of Government is entirely non-communal and is in no sense anti-Muslim

PERMANENT COMMISSION IN THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY TO MUSLIMS

198. *Mr Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state if he is aware that in the Royal Indian Navy about 65 per cent of its ratings are Muslims and that also it 35 per cent of its Commissioned cadets including war time personnel are Muslims?

(b) Are Government aware that recently selections have been made in order to recruit fit candidates from the Emergency Commissioned Ranks and that 150 permanent Commissions in the Royal Indian Navy have been granted out of which only ten have gone to Muslims?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir. On the 1st of October 1946, 40.8 per cent of the ratings in the RIN were Muslims. On the same date 20.4 per cent, of the officers were Muslims

(b) No, Sir The percentage of Muslim applicants amongst those applying for permanent commissions was 14.33. The number actually selected was 23 out of a total of 156 or about 15 per cent.

STRICTURES BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON JUDGE ADVOCATE OF INDIA

199. *Mr Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state if Government are aware of the strictures passed by many Members of Parliament recently in the House of Commons, upon the Judge Advocate of India and his Deputy?

(b) Have Government received any communication from the War Office, London, in this connection and if so, does he propose to place all the correspondence on the table of the House?

(c) Do Government propose to appoint a Committee to go into the whole question of legal procedure and other questions in regard to the trial of Members of the Services at Court Martials in India?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The reference to India in the statement by the Secretary of State for War was an error. The trials in question were conducted under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief ALFSEA and India was in no way concerned.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

OBJECTION BY BOMBAY MUSLIMS TO THE USE BY ALL-INDIA RADIO OF SANSKRITISED HINDUSTANI

200. *Mr Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state if he is aware that Bombay Muslims as a body have stated that the All India Radio is using Sanskritised Hindustani and is also using the prefix "Mahatma" before the name of Mr Gandhi and that instructions have been given to the All India Radio that "Qaid-e-Azam" must never be used before the name of Mr Jinnah?

(b) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the All India Radio to avoid this discrimination in future?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b) No such representation has been received from the Bombay Muslims as a body as stated in the question. As to prefixes, the matter has been dealt with in the reply given by Sir Akbar Hydari to Nawab Siddique Ali Khan's starred question No. 1293, in the Legislative Assembly on the 27th March, 1946. No change of procedure has been ordered in this respect. Government do not propose to issue any further instructions in regard to the prefixes when mentioning the names of eminent men. Such prefixes are in accordance with common usage and a prefix which is universally used becomes part of the name. No discrimination is either intended or involved.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SHORTAGE OF MATCHES IN BENGAL

30. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of matches in Bengal;

(b) the reasons for such shortage; and

(c) what steps are being taken for relieving the situation?

Sir John Sheehy: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 11th November 1946, when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

**PROVISION FOR ACCOMMODATION OF RESIDENTS OF SERAI PURANI
IDGAH, DELHI**

31. Sri N. Narayanamurthi : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state when the residents of Serai Purani Idgah Scheme Part I, Ward No 14, Delhi, will be actually required to vacate their houses ?

(b) In what locality do Government propose to house the inhabitants of Serai Purani Idgah Scheme Part I, Delhi, after vacating their houses ?

(c) Do Government propose to provide the residents of Serai Purani Idgah Scheme Part I, Delhi, with houses constructed by Government under the Delhi Re-housing Scheme ? If so, how these Government houses are to be distributed ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) The scheme has not yet been finally approved and it is not possible at present to state when the residents of Ward No 14 will be required to vacate their houses

(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Delhi Improvement Trust and no final decision has yet been reached

(c) The Delhi Improvement Trust will offer alternative accommodation to those persons who are entitled to the benefits of the state-aided rehousing scheme

**GOVERNMENT HOUSES FOR POOR OF SERAI PURANI IDGAH, DELHI, UNDER THE
DELHI RE-HOUSING SCHEME**

32. Sri N. Narayanamurthi : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Health please lay on the table of the House a copy of the revised conditions under which poor men will be provided with Government houses ?

(b) Do Government propose to give an assurance to those people of Serai Purani Idgah Scheme Part I, Delhi, whose property is acquired that they will be provided with suitable accommodation under the Delhi Re-housing Scheme ? If not, why ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) The detailed conditions under which persons shall be eligible for the benefits of the rehousing scheme are still under consideration of the Trust

(b) Only persons whose income does not exceed Rs 50 a month will be provided with accommodation under the rehousing scheme

PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER UNDER THE DELHI RE-HOUSING SCHEME.

33. Sri N. Narayanamurthi : Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state if Government propose to provide the amenities of life in the shape of electricity and water to people who come under the Delhi Re housing Scheme which has been contemplated by the Delhi Improvement Trust ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : Arrangements for the provision of water and electricity in the areas where the houses will be constructed will be made by the Improvement Trust

**COMPENSATION SCHEDULE FOR ACQUIRED HOUSES BY THE DELHI
IMPROVEMENT TRUST**

34. Sri N. Narayanamurthi : Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Schedule according to which compensation will be paid to those whose land and property will be acquired by the Delhi Improvement Trust ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : Compensation is assessed in accordance with the provisions of section 23 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 as modified by the Schedule to the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, as extended to Delhi

BUILDINGS IN WARD NO 14, DELHI, NOT ACQUIRED BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

35. Sri N. Narayanamurthi : Will the Honourable Member for Health please lay on the table of the House a list of buildings in Ward No 14, Delhi which have not been acquired by the Delhi Improvement Trust ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House when received.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

PURCHASE OF GRAIN FROM UNITED STATES

Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state whether he has seen the news item in the *Statesman* of the 12 Noon 30th October, 1946, that India will have to buy grain direct in the United States Market?

(b) Will such purchases cost the same as hitherto or will they have to be made at a higher rate due to competition in the open grain market of the United States of America?

(c) Will India be a loser on this account? If so, to what extent?

(d) Will foodgrains be available in sufficient quantities or at least in the same quantity which the Government of the United States of America had promised to dispatch to India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir, I have seen the news item referred to. We have, however received a message from our Agent-General in Washington this morning to say that the new procedure will not apply to wheat which will continue to be purchased by the Department of Agriculture as before. The other parts of the question do not, therefore, arise.

Seth Govind Das: Is only wheat going to be imported from the United States or any other grain also?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No, Sir. At present wheat is purchased by the Department of Agriculture of the United States for the countries to which that wheat is allotted. This news item stated that for all grains the importers from the United States would have to go to the market and not the Department of Agriculture.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies) Sir, I beg to move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one non-official member to serve on the Standing Advisory Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Industries and Supplies is concerned, during the unexpired portion of the current financial year, *vice* Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddique resigned."

Mr. President: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one non-official member to serve on the Standing Advisory Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Industries and Supplies is concerned, during the unexpired portion of the current financial year, *vice* Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddique resigned."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Secretary, Defence Department) Sir, I beg to move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, three non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee, *vice* Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, now members of the Cabinet and Shree Sarat Chandra Bose, resigned."

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, three non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee, *vice* Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, now members of the Cabinet and Shree Sarat Chandra Bose, resigned."

Prof. N. G. Banga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I should like to know how often the Defence Consultative Committee has met since the House adjourned last session and what work it transacted. I thought we were given an understanding by the department concerned that a short summary of their proceedings would be circulated among the Members of the House and I do not know whether any such summary has been at all circulated.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, I was advised that on this motion I should not make any statement and that is why I did not think it worth while taking the time of the House. But as my Honourable friend wants to have details I shall gladly give them. After the last Committee was elected by this House two meetings were held, one on the 8th March 1946, and the other on the 12th and 13th April 1946. The meeting of the 8th March 1946 discussed the Royal Indian Navy mutinies. On the 12th and 13th April 1946 among the items discussed were the future officering of the defence services of India, the future of Vice-roy's Commissioned Officers, policy regarding the retention of Gurkha units in the post war forces, the progress of demobilisation in the three services, purchase of cruisers for the Royal Indian Navy, the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India)—organisation during the war and future policy after the war, and the progress made by the Indian National War Academy Committee.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, may I take it that there was no meeting of this Committee held in the last six months since April? If so, is there no matter of urgency and importance to be placed before it, in view of so many problems arising in regard to the post war army in India? Why was no meeting held in six months?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Our intention is to call a meeting at the earliest possible date. But, as the House is aware, three vacancies have arisen, and in respect of the Members of the Upper House the election is to be held for the year 1946-47 as soon as that House meets. Members of that House elected on the last occasion have ceased to be members of the Committee, and it was not considered desirable to proceed with a Committee on which there was no representation of the other House and which three Members of this House would not be able to attend.

Mr. President: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, three non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee, *vice* Mr. Laquatt Ali Khan, Mr. M. Asaf Ali now members of the Cabinet and Shree Sarat Chandra Bose resigned."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of one Member to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Industries and Supplies and three Members to the Defence Consultative Committee, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 6th November and that the elections if necessary will be held on Friday, the 8th November. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10.30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

BANKING COMPANIES (RESTRICTION OF BRANCHES) BILL

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to restrict the opening and removal of branches by banking companies.

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to restrict the opening and removal of branches by banking companies."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934"

The motion was adopted

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: Sir, I introduce the Bill

FOREIGNERS BILL

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (Member for Education and Arts) Sir, on behalf of the Honourable the Home Member I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to confer upon the Central Government certain powers in respect of foreigners

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to confer upon the Central Government certain powers in respect of foreigners"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Sir, I introduce the Bill

INDIAN EXTRADITION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (Member for Education and Arts) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Extradition Act 1903

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Extradition Act, 1903"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Sir, I introduce the Bill

DELHI SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT BILL

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (Member for Education and Arts) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make provision for the constitution of a special police force for the Chief Commissioner's Province of Delhi for the investigation of certain offences committed in connection with matters concerning Departments of the Central Government, for the superintendence and administration of the said force and for the extension to other areas in British India of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the said force in regard to the investigation of the said offences

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make provision for the constitution of a special police force for the Chief Commissioner's Province of Delhi for the investigation of certain offences committed in connection with matters concerning Departments of the Central Government, for the superintendence and administration of the said force and for the extension to other areas in British India of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the said force in regard to the investigation of the said offences"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Sir, I introduce the Bill

INDIAN RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890.

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1880 "

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SPECIAL TRIBUNALS (SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS) BILL

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal (Law Member) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make certain provisions in relation to sentences and orders passed by Special Tribunals constituted under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943, on such Tribunals ceasing to function

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make certain provisions in relation to sentences and orders passed by Special Tribunals constituted under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943, on such Tribunals ceasing to function "

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: Sir I introduce the Bill

INDIAN ARMY AND THE INDIAN AIR FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Secretary, Defence Department) Sir, I beg to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911 and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932 for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendments to the Administrator General's Act, 1913

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act 1911, and the Indian Air Force Act, 1932, for certain purposes and to make certain consequential amendments to the Administrator General's Act, 1913 "

The motion was adopted

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, I introduce the Bill

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION

Mr. B. R. Sen (Secretary, Food Department) Sir, I beg to move

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration "

It has been the practice in the past on a motion of this character for the mover to make a statement reviewing the position in India as a whole, and indicating the measures which Government have taken or propose to take in dealing with it. On this occasion the House will no doubt like to have that statement not from me but from the Honourable the Food Member, Dr Rajendra Prasad. I shall not therefore take up the time of the House except to say that at a later stage, since the Honourable the Food Member will not have the time to reply at a later stage, I should be prepared to deal with any points which arise in the course of the debate and on which information is asked for or on which clarification of Government policy is required. Sir, I move

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration "

I have received one amendment in connection with this motion. I would prefer that the amendment is also moved at this stage, so that the House may be in possession of the original proposition as well as the amendment

Mr. O. P. Lawson (Bengal European) Sir, I beg to move

"That at the end of the original motion, the following be added, namely

'and that the particular attention of the Government be directed to the matter of losses in storage' "

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That at the end of the original motion, the following be added, namely

'and that the particular attention of the Government be directed to the matter of losses in storage' "

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Food Member). During the last session of the Assembly the question was debated at great length. This was in February 1946. Since then the situation has not improved, except for the fact that the monsoon which has just ended has on the whole been more or less favourable. It is therefore necessary for me to explain to the House the way in which we have managed to deal with the situation during the last seven or eight months.

It will be recollected that it was pointed out during the debate in February, that we anticipated on account of the failure of the monsoon last year and the failure of winter rains, a deficit of something like seven million tons in *kharif* and *rabi* crops. The question with which the Government was faced was how to meet this big deficit. It was a big deficit because if you take into consideration the amount of grain that is produced normally in the year it came to something like 10 per cent, and in a country which lives more or less from hand to mouth a deficit of 10 per cent is likely to upset most calculations. We had, therefore, to take steps from the very beginning to meet the situation with which the country was faced. The Government decided upon three courses for meeting the situation. The first was to get imports of foodgrains from foreign countries. Great stress was laid, I find from the reports of the proceedings, on this aspect of the question. Many members impressed upon the Government the desirability of getting as much imports as they could from foreign countries. The second line which the Government adopted was to husband the resources within the country and this involved two different modes: one was to procure what we could within the country, and the second was to so distribute what we had as to make the deficit spread over the whole country as far as possible, and to let people share the difficulties as equitably as they could. The third line was to step up production as far as that could be done. I will take each one of these and will place before the House the extent to which we have succeeded in the steps that we have taken.

Coming first to the question of imports from foreign countries, as soon as we discovered that we were faced with a large deficit, the Government of India deputed the Food Secretary, Sir Robert Hutchings to London and to America. This happened before the debate took place in February last. During the course of the debate, it was announced that a larger delegation under the then Food Member would proceed. The Food Member did not go but the delegation did proceed under Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, and it was fortunate enough in securing the support of the British Government. Subsequently *ex-President* Hoover of America visited this country and sometime later another American Mission under Dr. Schultz went round the country visiting particularly the areas which were most affected. Our delegation pressed the case for India before the International Organisation which deals with the food question and as a result we secured some allocation. Our demand was for 4 million tons. Unfortunately, we never got any firm promise with regard to the amount that we could get and since then what has happened has been more or less a sort of *ad hoc* arrangement, programmes made from month to month for giving us wheat from America, Australia, Canada, and other countries, and rice from the countries of South East Asia like Burma, Siam, Indo-China, etc. We have been pressing the International Food Emergency Commission for larger and larger allotments to us but situated as the world is today, it has not been possible for that Commission to give us all that we wanted. We know that the whole world today is in short-supply with regard to foodstuff and it is the function of that body to pool whatever surpluses are available from the producing countries and to distribute them to the countries which are in need. India has had her share, but unfortunately it has not been what we wanted or what we needed. With all our efforts we have so far been able to import into this country 1,484,740 tons of wheat and other grains and rice 247,500 tons, a total of 1,782,000 and odd tons. This is as against our demand of 4 million tons. We have been therefore faced with this other difficulty of meeting this big deficit which arises on account of our not getting what we wanted from foreign

[Dr Rajendra Prasad]

countries. We are indeed grateful to those foreign countries which have come to our help, and we cannot blame them if they are unable to give us more. But at the same time, we cannot help asking them to give us more, and I hope that in the months which are still difficult for us we shall be able to get something more. But it is not only the difficulty of allocation or difficulty of availability which has stood in our way. There have been other difficulties also which have made imports more and more difficult. We know that in the United States of America the shipping strike has been going on for a pretty long time. That has affected our imports to a considerable extent from that country. We expected something like 224,000 tons of wheat from America in the month of September. All that we have been able to get has been no more than 110,000 tons, thus causing a short-fall of no less than 114,000 tons. We find that it was not possible to rely only upon America, Canada and Australia, although they have given us quite a good deal of wheat. We felt that it was necessary to look to other sources also, and therefore we turned to countries which are just west to our own. We have got supplies from Iran, Turkey, Abyssinia and Egypt and these are of the following order. They come in all to 89,210 tons, of wheat, barley and millets from these countries. We have got from Brazil 28,904 tons of rice. The House is aware that recently Diwan Chaman Lal, a Member of this House, whom we are all pleased to see back today, was deputed on a mission to Argentine to secure permits for the export of 300,000 tons of maize which we purchased in that country. I am sure the House will be pleased to convey to him its thanks for the skill with which he conducted the negotiations and congratulations on the way he has achieved success in that effort. Out of the 300,000 tons of maize which we have secured in that country, 150,904 tons have already arrived and we are hoping that the balance will be coming within the next two months or so. In order to secure these supplies, we have had to be constantly in touch with the International Emergency Food Council through our representative and with the various countries from which we have these imports. In some of these we have got our permanent representative in others our representatives go as necessity arises.

Turning now to the countries on the South East from which we have got our rice, I find that we have secured about 247,500 tons from these countries. Burma is of course the largest exporter of rice for us. We had expected a large quantity from Siam, but unfortunately that has not materialized and we have not secured more than 17,000 tons from there. We were offered very kindly by the Indonesian Government some 500,000 tons of paddy, and we had hoped that we would be able to get that paddy, which would have gone a great way towards solving our difficulties. Unfortunately in Indonesia as in Siam, difficulties have arisen which have made exports difficult. In both these countries, there were internal difficulties of transport. The Government of India offered to meet these difficulties by supplying locomotives, wagons and trucks to Siam and trucks and coal to Indonesia. The position in Indonesia was complicated by the fact that political considerations came in and military reasons stood for sometime in the way of the supply of our trucks. Fortunately all these difficulties have now been removed and a special officer has been deputed by the Government of India to Indonesia to expedite the despatch of rice or paddy from that country. On account of these difficulties our import from Indonesia has not been more than 16,000 tons so far out of the 500,000 tons promised. We are hoping that with the changed circumstances and with the facilities which we have provided in the shape of trucks and coal we may be able to import larger quantities hereafter. As I have stated the total imports thus far from foreign countries come to something like 1,700,000 tons.

One question with regard to these imports is that of price. We have been paying rather heavily for these imports. We expect in the course of the

current year to make purchases to the extent of 91 crores worth of foodgrains from these countries. The prices at which these arrive in this country and the prices prevalent in this country differ to some extent and we felt that if we allowed these imports to be sold at the cost price, it might have the effect of upsetting the price structure in this country and the Government therefore decided to make good the difference between the price at which these were purchased and the price prevalent in this country for the same quality of grain. This would come to something like 15½ crores in the course of the year. This is what we have done by way of imports.

Turning to the second line of attack, we had first to procure what we could get in this country. Procurement is not easy, when you have not a factory or a number of factories from which you have to procure, but when you have got innumerable cultivators spread over this vast country, from each one of whom you have to collect what is surplus to his own needs. There is the further difficulty which has arisen on account of lack of statistics and information with regard to individual producers. In provinces where the ryotwari system prevails there is undoubtedly an agency which keeps account of individual cultivators and which can give us more or less reliable data with regard to what is produced by each cultivator. In the areas where the permanent settlement prevails no such agency exists, because there the Government is concerned only with getting its land revenue, which is paid by the middleman, the zamindar. The difficulty in procuring therefore has been greater in the case of the permanently settled areas than in the ryotwari areas.

The system that has been followed by the various Provincial Governments with regard to procurement has also not been uniform. In some places practically monopoly procurement prevails. This Government has been in favour of monopoly procurement in all provinces but it has taken time for all the provinces to fall in line with the policy of the Central Government. On the opening day of the session a statement was laid on the table of the House which showed the methods pursued in the different provinces. Today I can say that almost in every province there is or is going to be more or less monopoly procurement and we expect that with the next crop the procurement will be on a larger scale than has been possible in the past. But even as it is procurement has given us a very considerable quantity of grain within this country. We have been able to secure by procurement 8,800,000 tons as against 1,700,000 tons of imports. We have procured within the country itself more than double what we have been able to import from other countries.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural): Is not procurement less than ten per cent of the produce?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I think it will be less than ten per cent but it has to be taken into consideration that the procurement can only be with respect to the surplus which is actually marketed. Every cultivator naturally wishes to retain for his own use what he needs.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Should they also be starved?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: And his needs are in the first place, food for his family and in the second place wages for his labourers to the extent they are paid in kind and not in cash and thirdly, seeds.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: and the village requirements also.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: After making allowances for these three kinds of requirements of the cultivator, whatever remains as surplus is placed in the market. It has been found that the surplus which is marketed ordinarily is 40 per cent of the total produce. That has been arrived at by our statisticians and if we take into consideration the total produce at 60 million tons and deduct from that what is retained by the cultivator we get 24 million tons for sale. And out of these 24 million tons we have secured nearly

[Dr Rajendra Prasad] 4 million tons, 38 million tons to be accurate. That I think is about 1/6th or 16 per cent of the surplus which was available for procurement. Honourable Members will be able to understand and appreciate the importance of this procurement when they take into consideration the amount procured in the provinces which have been worst affected. We have to deal with two kinds of Provinces and two kinds of crops. There are certain crops in certain provinces which are grown for the market. In other provinces the crop is grown for consumption and only a part of it which is surplus is really marketed. Take, for example, the case of the Punjab or Sind. Some part of the wheat grown there is for sale. Whereas in a province like Bihar, if anything is sold, it is sold more or less under necessity. There is hardly any grain produced for sale.

So, in taking into consideration what amount the governments have been able to procure, we have to consider whether in any particular province the procurement has been of grain which was produced for sale, or of grain which was disposed of by the cultivator as surplus to his needs. Naturally what was produced for sale came in larger quantity and in greater proportion to the market for sale. What was produced for consumption naturally came in a much smaller proportion to the market for sale, and therefore when we see the figures for procurement for Punjab or Sind, we see a higher percentage of procurement, when we come to a province like Madras, which has been hard hit during the last year and which is still very badly hit at the present moment we find that there the procurement has been very, very successful from this point of view, there we find that during these difficult times through which we have been passing Madras has been able to procure something like 94 per cent of what might be a surplus with individual cultivators, and it is because of this policy of rigid procurement and rigid distribution that that province has so far been able to scrape through.

I do not know if it will be able in future to do so and to what extent it will be able to do so, but it is because of this rigorous procurement and rigorous distribution that it has succeeded.

The province that comes next in this respect is the province of Bombay. There, the procurement has been something in the neighbourhood of 60 per cent. Amongst other provinces I might mention the case of the United Provinces, which in previous years depended upon the Government of India for meeting its deficit to a considerable extent, but after the last *rabi* crop the ministry there carried out a rigorous policy of procurement, with the result that we have been free from anxiety for that province for these months, and any responsibility that we had in respect of that province has for the time being been taken off our hands. I do not say that that will be so in the future, but that is the present position.

On the other hand coming to a province like Bengal or Bihar, procurement has been rather poor, and as I have explained one of the reasons has been the difficulty in getting statistics and data on which to proceed. As I have submitted, the procurement policy of the government has so far been more or less un-uniform. Now that we are going to have monopoly procurement, I am hoping that in the coming season we shall have larger quantities at the disposal of the government which could be taken to places in need from places where there is a surplus.

The second line of attack in regard to internal husbanding of resources has been an attempt to make distribution as fair and equitable as possible. For that purpose, we have had to extend rationing and controlled distribution. Rationing has been extended very considerably. In 1943 there were few towns that were rationed, and the population that was rationed was not a very large one. There were only 2 million people rationed in March 1943. By March 1944, the number of rationed people had increased to 26 millions. In March 1945 it was 52 millions, and in March 1946 it was 100 millions. Today it is

150 millions. This does not mean that this entire population of 150 millions is completely rationed in the sense that each member has got a card. A certain number—one-third—is completely rationed in that sense, the remaining two-thirds of about 100 millions are under controlled distribution. The areas which are completely rationed are mostly urban areas but there are some rural areas also. The areas which are under controlled distribution are mostly rural, and these belong largely to the southern presidency of Bombay and Madras and to Bengal, and the states of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin. For meeting the demand of this rationed and controlled population, we have been distributing from government sources and through government agencies something like 650,000 tons of foodgrains a month, roughly, and this has continued for the last 8 or 9 months up to now.

Members will recollect the figure of imports and the figure of internal procurement which I mentioned a little earlier in my speech. The two come to something between 55 and 56 lakhs tons. We have been distributing 650,000 tons a month during the last 8 or 9 months. We started with a ration of 12 oz. per head. To begin with the ration was of the quality of grain which was consumed ordinarily in a particular locality, but as the position became tighter we had to alter that, particularly in regard to rice, the position became so tight that even in a presidency like Madras and in the states of Travancore and Cochin, where the ordinary food of the people is rice, we had to give them only wheat; we had to give them not even wheat but also maize, and the House can easily imagine the difficulty of people who have never been used to wheat or maize, having to take to them under stress of hard times. But they have taken to them because they could not get anything better and we had most reluctantly to acquiesce in giving them wheat and even maize because we had nothing else to give them. In Northern India, where rice is eaten as in Bihar, there also wheat had to be given but no portion of Northern India is so unfamiliar with wheat or maize as the South is. Therefore while inconvenience must have been caused to these parts too, it could not be anything compared to what the people in the South had to suffer.

The system of rationing has further had to be modified and altered to suit the exigencies of time by dividing the ration of 12 ounces into separate kinds of grains, a portion to be given in wheat, a portion to be given in rice, a portion to be given even in maize or millets and I imagine—in fact, I fear that in some cases people have not taken their full ration because they could not use the full ration on account of the unsuitability of the grain which was given to them. That has happened, I believe, in many cases. Then the question arises how is it that with this small import, when we demanded four million tons and we got only 1.7 million tons, how is it that we have been able to survive these months. I have to point out that various factors have contributed to this. Our people are used to suffering and they know how to face such difficulties because they have done it in the past and India is more or less in a chronic position of underfeeding. That has been one of the causes contributory to our success in gaining this time which we have so far succeeded in gaining. Another cause which must have contributed to it is that from the very beginning the Food Department has been anxious to maintain two things—to maintain the ration at 12 ounces by splitting up the ration into various kinds of grains and thereby making some sort of a saving although indirectly.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: You give a stuff which cannot be eaten. That is true of Madras.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: In the second place we have always been anxious to maintain a stock for about six weeks in every province. It has been a most difficult job to maintain this stock of 6 weeks. We have some how or other managed so far but the month of November opens with a stock of 4 weeks or even less in some of the provinces. I can say this that the most difficult months we have now almost passed through. We now have the crops in sight of us. The monsoon has been fair. There have been floods in

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some parts like Assam, Bengal and Bihar which have damaged the crop considerably and we have had short rain also as in parts of the Punjab and Sind but on the whole I must say that nature has been kind to us this year and we are hoping to get a more or less normal crop this season. With this crop in sight I venture to hope that our people will not starve and what is more I have found that the provinces and the people have shown a grit in facing this difficulty which is really admirable. Some time ago after taking office I made an appeal to the people to save as much as they could. It has gladdened my heart to see that I have received thousands of letters and telegrams from thousands of people offering to save part of their ration. Some people have even starved and they have started fasting clubs to be able to save their own food for the sake of others. All this taken in terms of maunds and tons may not come to very much but that shows the spirit in which the people have taken it and the spirit in which they have been facing this calamity. I have also appealed to provinces which have any surplus to spare over and above what they declared earlier in the year to make such surpluses available and I am glad and grateful that Orissa, the Central Provinces, and the Punjab have given us larger quantities than they promised to give in the beginning. This extra surplus which we have received from these provinces comes to something like 45 thousand tons which is not an inconsiderable amount when we are so hard pressed. All these factors have enabled us to pass through the most difficult times. We are not yet out of the wood. November and December are still difficult months, although we have a crop standing in front of us, we still need imports of wheat from foreign countries because during the past months we have had to borrow wheat from some provinces to meet the urgent necessities of other provinces and they were able to give us even at risk of their own supplies going short. We are pledged to repay the loan within December and I hope that we shall be able to get this import of wheat which will enable us to repay the loan. We cannot get any more wheat in this country because the wheat crop will not be ready before the spring next year and our loan of wheat has to be repaid out of imports from foreign countries. It is for this reason that I have said that we are not yet out of the wood but the chances are my hopes are, that with people determined to get over the present difficulties we shall be able to get over them.

One question which has been raised and which has caused us considerable anxiety is the question of prices. That has two aspects. The first aspect relates to the price which we have to pay to the cultivator for the grain that he gives us. The second relates to the price at which the grain is to be sold by the Government to the consumer. Both these go together and I shall deal with them in such a way as to place before the House the views which we have taken in regard to them.

Taking first the question of prices at which we have to place our food supply to the consumer, I know that throughout the country there is control of prices of the principal foodgrains. There is widespread complaint that in some places,

the grain that is actually sold in the market is not sold at the control price, and I have myself come across cases where the difference between the control price and the price at which the grain is actually sold is very very great. It is as much as twice or two and a half times the control price. This is due undoubtedly to various causes—we may call it black marketing—but if you analyse what that actually means, we shall see that various factors enter into this. It was suggested to me in my own province, which I recently visited, that if inter-district restriction of movement of foodgrains is removed, it would be possible to bring down the sale prices of foodgrains within the district. It is very often assumed that the man who actually sells to the consumer is the really guilty person in respect of these high exorbitant prices. As a matter of fact, the retailer is only the last link in the chain through which the grain has passed from the producer to the consumer. Every link that has preceded this last link has had its share in some way or other in

putting up the price. It may sometimes be the greed of the various men through whose hands the grain has passed. It may be—probably it is in some cases—corruption on the part of those who are entrusted with the control of these prices which is responsible for adding to them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And the Police also, every constable!

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I think I have included that. We cannot forget that whenever anything is smuggled, the smuggler runs a certain risk and the profits which he charges naturally are commensurate with the risk which he runs. So what with the greed of the middle man, what with the corruption of those who have to supervise the sales and what with this additional profit which is to be charged as a result of smuggling, the price of which the retailer sells to the consumer becomes very exorbitant.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: How many stages this wheat passes through? Can we not minimise them?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: It is difficult for me to say that. It depends upon the particular locality, it depends also upon the agency which is employed. And the idea of monopoly procurement has been to eliminate as far as possible these intermediary stages in the matter of procurement. Similarly, wherever it has been possible to have co-operative societies for the sale of goods that has been encouraged, and wherever it will be found possible to eliminate these stages, the Government will undoubtedly give consideration to any suggestion and eliminate these intermediaries who add to the price. The question of the control of retail prices is really in the hands of the Local Governments. We from the Central Government can only advise and can only give indications but we cannot really control the retail shop and the retail shop-keeper. I do not mean to suggest that the Provincial Governments are not mindful of their duty. They are, I am sure, doing their best to control these things, but the force of circumstances and the force of events have made their efforts unfruitful or, at any rate, not as fruitful as one would wish them to be.

Turning, then, to the other aspect of the price—the price at which the grain has to be procured from the producer, we have to take into consideration two classes of people. We must give the producer a reasonable profit for his labour, we must, at the same time, attend also to the position of the consumer, who should not be made to pay more than he can bear. And in fixing the price for foodgrains particularly, one has to be very careful to see that the interests of neither are sacrificed. I know there is a great demand for raising prices of foodgrains, and it has been suggested that the cultivator does not get what is his due and the prices of agricultural produce should be enhanced to give him a reasonable and fair return. On the other hand, the number of consumers is not negligible. Among the consumers we have a class of people who do not produce at all. There is another class which produces only a part of its requirements and for the rest it has to depend upon what is produced by others. In the first class that is to say, those who are only consumers and not producers at all, we may include the townspeople all over the country, we may include the entire population which is engaged on labour in factories, and we may include also a certain proportion of labour which is employed in agriculture but which has got no land of its own. A certain proportion of the land labour is paid in kind, but the modern tendency—I should say the up-to-date tendency—is to pay in cash and not in kind, and that is partly also because of the high prices which grain fetches. The cultivator does not want to part with his grain, if he can help it, for paying wages to his labourers. Then, there is another class which is employed in various kinds of sundry services and which is also a non-producing class. If you take all these classes together, you will find that a pretty good proportion of the entire population is a non-producing class.

An Honourable Member: All the M.L.A.'s are non-producing class.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I do not know if all but certainly most. There is no means of ascertaining the exact proportion of the population which is purely a consumer population as distinguished from the producer.

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population. But there are some data from which we can draw an inference. I stated earlier that about 40 per cent of the total produce is marketed by the producers. I take it roughly that that indicates the quantity which is surplus to his own needs, that is to say, for feeding himself and his family, for wages which he pays to his labourers for seed etc. If 40 per cent is actually sold by the producer I take it that roughly speaking 40 per cent of the population is fed with that 40 per cent of the produce, and we add to that a certain quantity which used to be imported from abroad that would also go to feed the non-producing population. I take it therefore that 40 per cent or a little more than 40 per cent of the population consists of people who do not produce, but who purchase their food requirements from the market. In fixing the price, we have to consider the interest of this 40 per cent or more of the population as against 60 per cent or so of the population, which is the producing population.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The average income is three or four times that of the agriculturist's income.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: If we consider the prices from the point of view of both these classes of our population, we cannot help coming to the conclusion that the price should be fixed in such a way as to be fair both to the consumer class and the producer class. Now, Sir, in arriving at the correct figure of prices, we have also to take into consideration other things to which I will presently refer. What would be the fair price that we should pay? The claim for higher prices arises because it is said that the prices of other consumer goods which the cultivator or the producer consumes have risen and therefore he has to spend more and he should accordingly get more for what he produces. If we look at the index figures of various kinds of commodities we find that in the case of agricultural produce, the rise has been higher than in the case of other consumer goods. Taking 1939, August as the base, I find that in September 1946, the price of rice has risen 322 per cent, wheat 377 per cent, sugar, 169 per cent, cotton, 192 per cent, jute 227 per cent, linseed 357 per cent.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab Sikh): What about cattle? It has risen five times.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I have not got the figures.

Now coming to the materials which go into consumption.

Mr. President: The House will now adjourn for Lunch. The Honourable Member can continue his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Sir, when the House rose for Lunch I was giving the index figures of various commodities—agricultural and other—which go into the daily consumption of the people. The year 1938-39 (August) is taken as the base. The index figures in September 1946 were: Rice—322, wheat—373, sugar—169, cotton—192, jute—227, linseed—357, iron—117, hides and skins—200, kerosene—151, cotton manufactures—261, cement—182, galvanised corrugated sheets—229. It would appear from these figures that agricultural products, particularly foodstuffs, have got the highest index figure, much higher than those for manufactured articles like cloth, kerosene and other things which are largely used by agriculturists. If we took these figures into consideration it would seem that there is no case for raising the price of foodstuffs in this country.

There is another test which might be applied. If, as a matter of fact, agriculture does not pay and does not give a fair return to the producer one would expect one of three things. The producer might reduce production, that is to

say, give up the land which he cultivates or allow it to remain uncultivated, secondly, he might divert the land from food crops to other crops which might bring him more money, thirdly, he might reduce his cultivation by less intensive effort in cultivation and thereby reduce the actual produce. I am not aware of any evidence that any of these things has happened in the case of agriculture. We know as a matter of fact that land instead of going out of cultivation has actually increased in extent, and within the last five or six years there has been considerable increase in the acreage under cultivation. We have no evidence of land going to cash crops from food crops. On the other hand, within the last five or six years a considerable quantity of land which was under cotton cultivation has been diverted to food crops. Some amount of land which was under cane cultivation has also been diverted to food crops, and there is no evidence whatsoever that I know to show that there is less intensive cultivation on the part of the agriculturist. Taking this test into consideration I think there is no case made out for increase of agricultural prices. I know there is a great demand for increasing the prices of agricultural produce. Some of the provincial Governments under pressure from the producing section have recommended increases in the price of agricultural produce. The position of the Food Department is very unenviable when it has to sit tight in spite of demands made by Provincial Governments, in spite of demands made by the producing section of the community. My position is particularly difficult. On the one hand I have to look to the interest of the agriculturist, and on the other I cannot ignore or neglect the consumer. I have no personal experience myself, but sometimes I feel I am in the position of a man with two wives, both of whom he loves equally, but does not know whom to neglect or ignore. As Member in charge of Agriculture my interest is to see that the agriculturist gets as high a price as he can, on the other hand as Food Member my duty is to see that the consumer gets food as cheap as possible. Between the two you can easily imagine what my position must be. I can give this assurance that it is only under a compelling sense of duty that I have to stick to the prices which have been fixed and not to agree to an increase at the present moment. But I may say this also that Government have not been content to leave things to their own decision alone. We have known that for some time past a sub-committee which was appointed some time ago under the chairmanship of Sir T. V. Krishnamachari has been considering the question of prices of agricultural produce. That committee has submitted its report only recently—just a few days ago—and we have not had time to consider that report. But it is a comprehensive report which deals with all aspects of the question, and Honourable Members must have noticed from the press summary that has been published that one of the recommendations is to have a sort of independent and semi-judicial body to deal with the question of prices. We shall consider the report of that committee as soon as it is available in a printed form which I hope will be very soon.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the report be circulated to the Members of the House or those who desire to have it?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I think we shall follow the usual practice. If such reports have been previously circulated to Honourable Members, this also will be circulated.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: It depends on the generosity of the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I did not know that, if that is so, the Honourable Member can count upon it.

So as soon as this report is available in a printed form Government will give their most earnest consideration to it, and I can give the House this assurance that if as a result of the consideration of that report a review of the price policy is called for, I shall not be deterred from taking action simply because the Food Department has been wedded so long to a particular policy. And I shall give effect to such decision as on a consideration of that report Government feel

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it is necessary to arrive at for the benefit of the agriculturist and the consumer alike

I will now come to the third line of attack on the shortage of food, and that is to increase our production in this country. In a sense that is the most important aspect of it. We have seen that we cannot depend upon imports from foreign countries or meeting our requirements. It is not possible either to continue to depend upon such imports. India is an agricultural country and it is really a matter of shame for us if we have to go to other countries for the one thing which is supposed to be our main source and our speciality, namely, agriculture. It would therefore be in the fitness of things that Government should take all possible steps to increase the production in this country. It is the function of the Department of Agriculture to find out ways and means for increasing production, and I will mention briefly the programme which the Department of Agriculture has before it. It is no new programme which we are going to adopt today. In fact it was explained at some length in the course of the debate last time. The objective that we have set before ourselves is two-fold. We must produce enough to meet the present emergency, and, secondly, we must produce enough not only to meet the present emergency on present scale of consumption but also to improve the standard of living of our people, and to find enough food which will be sufficient in quantity and also in quality. The problem, therefore, has to be attacked in two ways. We are contemplating one long range programme and another short range programme. As a long range programme, there are several multi-purpose projects which are in contemplation of the Government. I might mention the project of the Damodar river which flowing through Bihar passes into Bengal and causes immense havoc in Bengal whenever it is in flood. The idea is to train the river and to so control it as to make the water, which is now a source of havoc and devastation into a source of profit to the agriculturist and at the same time to create power which will be available for industrial and other purposes cheaply. Other projects relate to the river Mahanadi which is in Orissa, to the river Kosi which is in Bihar, which is the source of immense devastation not only of wealth but also of human life because in its trail there is always malaria. There are similar other projects of this nature. But these projects are likely to take time to be planned and to be executed and we cannot depend upon them for meeting our immediate requirements. But we can certainly depend upon them for giving us more food to enable us to improve the standard of living of our people.

The other kind of projects are short term projects which are intended to bring quick results and they have become popularly known as Grow More Food projects. The target which we are fixing before us is to produce four million tons food in the next five years, i.e. by 1952. Four million tons will be sufficient, as we think, to meet the present requirements at the present scale of consumption and also the requirement of the increasing population which we shall have by 1952. It is not expected that this four million tons will in any way be able to improve the standard of living or the standard of consumption. It can only meet the demand at the present scale of consumption and no more, but for the present we are aiming at that and leaving it to the multi-purpose projects to supply us more for the other purpose. It may seem to be a very ambitious project to be able to produce four million tons, but I submit, Sir, that if we take into consideration the quantity of land on which this has to be grown it is not much. After all it amounts to an addition of four million tons to 60 million tons that we are producing now, or 1/15th of what is being produced today. If the area which produces 15 maunds to-day, can be made to produce an additional maund, we shall have reached the target of four million tons assuming that every unit which produces 15 maunds today begins to produce 16 maunds by 1952. Looking at the same problem from another point of view, we know that the average acreage of land under food crops for five years is something like 240 million acres, or 24 crore acres and we shall have to raise this 4 million tons from this 24 crore acres, which means really that we shall

have to produce about half a maund extra per acre which is not a very big demand to make. So whether we look at it from the point of view of producing one maund extra for every fifteen maunds that is produced today or from the point of view of producing half a maund extra per acre, the figure is not such as to terrify us. But I know that averages are sometimes very deceptive, and I am sure it will require much determination and much application to secure this additional four million tons.

With this object in view the Government have decided to give aid to agriculturists for various purposes. One of the needs of agriculture is irrigation and it is proposed to help small irrigation works like surface wells, tubewells, digging tanks, repairing or digging channels, putting up small equipment for drawing water from rivers. In this way we expect that we should be able to add considerably to the present production by means of additional irrigation.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Have you got any planned scheme for using sub-soil water?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We are working out a plan. As a matter of fact that plan is being prepared and I am thinking of sending the Agricultural Development Commissioner to the various provinces to fix up targets year by year in consultation with the provinces and to see to it that in course of time these targets are reached.

The first thing is about irrigation. The second item is to supply manure at relatively low cost to the cultivators to enable them to increase their production. The third thing is to give them seeds of improved variety so that a larger yield may be secured.

We also propose to help in bringing under cultivation land which on account of deep-rooted grass is not fit for cultivation today by helping parties to cultivate them with tractors and such other mechanical implements.

It is hoped that with all these methods of encouragement it will be possible to raise the four million tons.

The Government propose to bear a part of the cost of these schemes. The idea is that if a particular scheme costs Rs. 100 Rs. 50 should be made available by the party benefitted by it. Of the balance of Rs. 50, Rs. 25 should be contributed by the Provincial Government and Rs. 25 by the Central Government. This applies to all provinces except the three smaller provinces of the North-West Frontier Province, Orissa and Assam, in the case of each of which the share of the Central Government would be two-thirds of the half, which is payable by the Provincial and Central Governments jointly. We hope that with this contribution there will be sufficient encouragement given to the cultivators to come forward to increase their produce.

When I was thinking of raising the question of prices of foodgrains, I felt we would be much more profitably employed in thinking out means of raising the produce per acre and increasing the income of the cultivator in that way and also solving the food problem incidentally. I know that the cultivator in the past has suffered on account of economic forces over which he had no control. But today that is not the position. Today the cultivator is getting what in fairness he can claim, and I hope that with these schemes for increasing the production, it will be possible for him to increase his income from his land cultivation.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Have you done anything for manuring? What practical steps have Government taken?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: As regards manuring there are two kinds of manure which can be used. There is the farmyard manure which can be used in the form of compost and chemical fertilizers which are produced in factories. Propaganda is being carried on and practical demonstrations are given for producing compost from the refuse matter which ordinarily goes into waste and very often is the cause of ill-health and insanitation.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: And burnt also?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Yes, in many places cow-dung which can be converted into fertilizers is burnt, but that is complained by the question of finding alternative fuel for the poor man. My own belief is that if all that is wasted today could be utilized by way of manure, the cultivator would be able to get more than what he would lose by way of fuel from his cow-dung.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan) What about bullocks? This is a very knotty problem?

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: That is another question and a very much larger question. I was thinking and confining my remarks this afternoon to the question of cereals and grains and not to go into the question of other kinds of foodstuffs.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: "Grow More Food" comes under that!

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I would have liked to deal with more milk, better bullocks, if I had time, because that is a subject in which I personally feel very very interested. But at the present moment I will content myself with saying that the Agricultural Department, apart from what it is doing for increasing the production of cereals by the methods which I have just indicated, is not negligent of improving the breed of cattle and cattle husbandry generally. We have in hand many schemes for improving the yield of milk from our cows and also for improving the breed of cattle. It must be recognised that in a country like India, which is largely agricultural and where agriculture depends upon bullocks very considerably, we cannot afford to have cattle which will give either only milk or cattle which can be used only for draught purposes. We need cattle which will serve the double purpose of giving good quantity of milk and doing a great deal of hard work with the plough, etc. The object of the Department is to encourage these breeds and considerable experiment has been made in this respect and we are trying to help provide dairies and *goshalas* to improve the breed of cattle and to improve the milk yield of the cows.

I have not dealt with other items of food because I thought I had better concentrate on the question of cereals and foodgrains in this debate. But I may give this assurance that none of these has been neglected and we are conscious and we are anxious to improve the yield of milk, to improve the yield of ghee, to improve the quality of the bullocks, to increase the quantity of sugar which may be made available to our people.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: The prices have gone up!

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: In regard to the price of sugar, we find that in the case of sugarcane, land has been diverted from sugarcane to other crops which were found to be more profitable than sugarcane and consequently the quantity of sugar that was produced had gone down. One of the tests as I said for judging whether prices of a particular commodity should be raised or not is whether in actual practice the production of that particular article is coming down or is increasing or is stationary. If it is increasing or stationary, there is hardly any case for increasing the price. If it is going down, then the question does arise and we will have to consider the extent to which the increase should be given. We find in the case of sugar that in the last few years land under sugarcane had gone down by more than 13 per cent. We also found that the quantity of sugar produced during the last few years compared with what was produced in the last season, had gone down in the last season by over 13 per cent. It was for this very reason that we have cut down the allocation of sugar to the various provinces by 13 per cent and unless that previous figure is reached it will not be possible to increase the allocation to the provinces. The long range programme has contemplated the establishment of a number of factories,—I forget the figure (I think it is about 24 or 25, but I am not sure). They are fresh factories to be established in the provinces to enable the quantity of sugar produced to be raised from about 9.48 lakh tons, which was raised last year to about 15 lakh tons. We have to wait and see when all these factories begin to function and when we are able to get this larger supply of sugar.

As I have said, the most important thing in the matter of food is to increase our production of foodgrains and every thing that we require for our food purposes and this cannot be achieved by the Government of India or for that matter by the Provincial Governments without the co-operation of the cultivators, the producers, the labourers and also the general public and we require also scientific knowledge for this purpose. We are anxious that this question of shortage of food should be solved and solved within the quickest possible time. The only way in which it can be solved is to produce more and more within this country. We cannot, as I said, depend on imports. Imports are indispensable. Imports also mean something to be given in exchange. Up to now India has been an exporting country and the exports used largely to be agricultural produce and raw materials. It was in exchange for these that we used to get manufactured goods from other countries. If now we have to import not only manufactured goods but also our foodstuffs from foreign countries, I do not know how we shall be able to pay for them. As I said earlier, this year we are importing more than 91 crores worth of foodgrains. If we go on at this rate, I doubt whether we shall be able to go along for any length of time over this path. And therefore the only course left to us is to increase our production and for that purpose the co-operation of all is required. The Government is willing to give aid to the extent I have just indicated. The Provincial Governments are expected to pay their share of the aid and we hope that the cultivators will see that it is after all profitable to invest the 50 per cent of the cost. I was calculating the cost of an ordinary well in my province, say at about Rs 600 or 700. The share of the agriculturist in that would be about Rs 300 or 350. One well is expected to irrigate about six acres and if on each acre we get, say one or two maunds extra, which is what is expected to be produced as the result of the improved irrigation, then the agriculturist would get something like 12 maunds extra and we can easily see that in a few years time (say in four or five years time) he will have earned enough from this extra produce to cover what he has invested.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan)
But there is no money with the cultivator to invest

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: We have suggested to the Provincial Governments and some Provinces are prepared to advance the share of the agriculturist also and to realise it in course of time, in instalments, something in the nature of a *ta'aruf* loan. So the difficulty which my friend apprehends may not arise but of course I cannot promise that it will be done in every case, because it means, in that case, that the Governments—both Provincial and Central—will have to find practically the entire amount of the cost. I cannot promise that that can be done in every case and I believe that there will be many cases in which it would not be necessary for the Government to invest the entire amount. There will be many cultivators forthcoming who will invest either their own money or money raised otherwise in the hope that they will be able to recover what they have invested within four or five years at the most. I therefore feel that although we have passed through the present crisis and although we may not soon expect to be in the brightness of full sunshine, we have just begun to see streaks of light and I am hoping that we shall be able to pass through the darkness of this crisis and emerge into full sunshine very soon. We cannot ignore the perennial problem of shortage of food in this country and the only way to meet that is to increase our own production. I appeal to all members of this House, to all the Governments concerned, to all cultivators, to all producers, to scientists and technicians both in Government service, as well as elsewhere outside Government service, to help in this work of increasing our food and saving the country from having to face this kind of calamity again.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: Sir, I would like to begin by thanking the Honourable Member for Food and Agriculture for a most excellent summing up of the situation, which I have listened to with the greatest attention. Not only has he produced a masterly survey of the situation which faces the country but

[Mr C P Lawson]

he has also faced up to problems in a way which we find extremely heartening. I would like to say that we here view with particular pleasure the fact that Dr Rajendra Prasad now presides over the two departments of Food and Agriculture, which we have always considered to be complimentary and his speech this morning and this afternoon has shown very clearly that these two departments are now in extremely capable hands.

Sir, I know that he will not object if I also pay a tribute to his department which we here feel has done an extremely fine job of work over these past few years. I would like to say at once that the rationing that this Department has introduced, a rationing which embraces, as Dr Rajendra Prasad told us, 150 million people, is an organisation which is second to none in the world. It rations more people than are rationed in any country in the world, and I feel that to the Food Department is due its meed of praise for having carried this organisation into effect. I would like to say also that we are much impressed by the flexibility of this department, its ability to distribute the food in accordance with the varying demands of the country, switching from north to south with bewildering rapidity, and third, but by no means last, I would like to congratulate the department on realising the need in which the country stood of imports and on getting down at once to securing those imports which were so greatly needed and which indeed the world owes to India for this is no parochial problem, this is not a problem of feeding a single country, it is a problem of feeding one-fifth of the inhabitants of the world, and the rest of the world cannot deny its responsibility for that.

I would like to say that these three items seem to us to supply a very good reason for thanking the Food Department and paying them a tribute for their work, and as I have stated already, it is indeed a great pleasure to us to see them aligned with the department of agriculture as they properly should be under the leadership of Dr Rajendra Prasad.

Now, Sir, the difficulties that the Food Department have had to face have been considerable, a number of these difficulties are constitutional and it will be the work of many of my honourable friends in this house soon to see how those difficulties may be overcome. The Food Department is not paramount in its sphere, it relies upon provincial governments for carrying out its mandates. Indeed up to the present, it has not been in a position of power in the field of agriculture, upon which department it depends for its supplies. It has in fact been a distributing department, with the doubtful ability to say to the various provinces "Unless you do as we ask, we may be able to make things difficult for you." That is a situation which will need to be faced in the future, and the courage with which the Member for Food and Agriculture has faced up to the problems he has put before us leads us to hope that that problem also will be solved in the future.

Sir, I have moved an amendment to the main Resolution today which deals with storage and I have moved it in no spirit of criticism but more in the hope that in putting these various points before the House we may be able to do something to add a little more to the full efficiency which we hope will undoubtedly come. No one would suggest for one minute that any grain in any country can be stored without loss. It would be quite an impossible thing to happen, and indeed if we can do anything to save a few maunds here and a few maunds there, the speech of the Honourable Member has supplied us with every reason for doing so. He has for instance indicated that we are going to spend the enormous sum of Rs 91 crores on food. That is money paid out from India, going abroad. He has also indicated a figure of Rs 15½ crores in subsidies. Now, these are very big figures for a country with comparatively slender finances, and we now see that an enormous figure of 1,700,000 tons of foodgrains is coming from abroad—a figure which indeed is higher than I expected and must have covered a period of more than a year,

but however that may be we now have the figure of 1,700,000 tons, an expenditure of Rs 91 crores, and subsidies of Rs 15½ crores—I say, save 50 per cent of your storage losses and you have that for nothing. That to me is an effective point. The country loses every year 3 million tons of foodgrains in storage. Save 50 per cent of that loss, and you have very nearly as much as your total imports for nothing or for a comparatively negligible cost, and of course saving all the money in subsidies too. That is why I have been impressed with the need for emphasising this necessity for proper grain storage. We shall never eliminate total loss in storage and I do not suppose there is a country in the world which could. But we can undoubtedly reduce those losses and I am sure that this is taking place. I asked a question on the subject some few days ago, and the Honourable Secretary for the Food Department gave us an idea of what was going on. I asked for certain figures—perhaps I asked for them a bit too early. This is not a matter which can be cleared up in a minute, and I do not expect it to be so cleared up, but provided we have it in mind, I think it should be a fruitful source of making up a little bit on our losses, and saving the money that we so greatly need.

Now, Sir, a memorandum has been issued by the department which I have also read with particular interest. I could wish that all Dr Rajendra Prasad told us could have been included in this memorandum, because to me it had one grave drawback. This memorandum of some 26 or more pages contains something like 20 pages of matter dealing with the question of food supply from abroad, the position of food organisations abroad, and I began to think, surely this is a bit too much. Surely the balance should be the other way round, surely there should be 20 pages about production in India and perhaps 6 or 7 pages about the situation abroad. That balance has been entirely rectified in my mind by the speech of the Honourable Member. He has put things back into the proper perspective. He has shown us that whatever we do with these organisations abroad, whatever we get from abroad, the problem of this country will be really to feed itself. What do we get from abroad? Supposing we get 1,700,000 tons—we need it, we cannot do without it. But against a production of 60 million tons, it falls in importance, and if we can increase the yields over and above this 60 millions, that is really what we are after. The questions in fact which I wanted to be answered and which were not answered in this memorandum but which have been largely dealt with, though not wholly dealt with, by the Honourable Member, are something like the following. What are we growing? Are we producing more than 60 million tons total, because working it out we need about 60 million tons to supply everybody in this country with a pound of cereals a day?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) 65

Mr. C. P. Lawson: 65, thank you. Are we meeting the population increase? In other words, are we every year growing that amount of more food which the extra mouths will need. I would like to have known, for instance, how we were getting on with the programme of supplying improved seed which, I believe, before the war was utilised only to the extent of about 6 per cent. I wonder how much more is being used. Above all, I wondered what the increase in the yield per acre was coming to, whether we were beginning to show any results in that most important side, because however many more acres we can put under cultivation it is the yield per acre which is going to save this country. In due course if every cultivable acre in this country is put under the plough, a state of saturation will be achieved, but there is the most enormous room for improvement in the yield per acre and that is the whole prospect on which we must base our hopes.

Now, Sir, I would like to join the Honourable Member in paying a tribute to the work, which we have followed in the newspapers, of Diwan Chaman Lal in the Argentine. I am sure the House will be grateful to him for what he has done and I was more than heartened to hear that so great a proportion of this 800,000

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tons had already been shipped. At the moment of course a thought also comes to my mind that that 300,000 tons is just about one-tenth of our total losses in storage. The figure is interesting just to mark the importance of my point. I also sincerely hope that the incredible confusion which appears now to exist in the jute market will not cause any trouble in that arrangement and perhaps later on in the debate we may hear a little more about that, because while one does not want to start unpleasant hares, I do sincerely hope that the jute situation will soon be settled. We understand, of course, that there was some *per contra* understanding. But to think that by just making a saving of one-tenth of our losses in storage we could make up all that Diwan Chaman Lall by his efforts has produced justifies the amendment that I have put before this House.

Now, Sir, I have said before that the Department of Food has to rely very largely on Provincial administrations for the working out of a lot of this programme, including its programme of storage. I understand from the figures supplied to me that the Government of India has produced something like storage for $2\frac{1}{2}$ million tons. Apart from that they have hired space for about another 8 million tons and I presume therefore that some $2\frac{1}{2}$ million tons are now accommodated in reasonably good storage conditions but I take it also that that 8 million tons of storage is to a large extent administered by the provinces and there of course is room for improvement. What are these godowns like? Are they full of rats, cockroaches and vermin of every type? I am sure, as the Honourable Member said, that Provincial Administrations do what they can to help but I also know the water tight compartments that Government produces when the demand for the provision of accommodation becomes an annoyance to the people who have to produce it. Then they are not perhaps so careful and we have a situation to be watched. I have in mind the situation in this particular city. Sometime ago when a railway strike was threatened it was thought wise to send some stocks of grain to Delhi. The stocks of grain arrived. They remained in station premises for a very long time. Then the rats and other pilferers began to take their toll. The rains began to come. Somebody said to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, "You will have to requisition godowns to take this stock." I may as well inform this House that in the last six months in this city both derequisitioning and requisitioning have taken place. The Defence Department derequisitioned. The Chief Commissioner under the orders of the Civil Supplies Department requisitioned. I asked the other day for a statement of what requisitioning had been taking place and a list was laid on the table. I looked through the list. It was a list of only about 6 items which could easily have been read to the House. It was laid on the table and I noticed items like this—"godowns in Naya Bazaar, godowns behind the cloth market" and other items which did not make clear how many godowns there were and in what condition they were. Now, in reply to another question I was told that those stocks could not be moved even up to the Cantonments because of the extra cost of transport involved. I myself made an inquiry as to whether these stocks could be moved out to Ghaziabad where I knew there were a lot of godowns and movement to which was fairly easy. I was told that this could not be done because Ghaziabad was not in the Delhi province. These are the water tight compartments regarding which I complained. The godowns behind the Cloth market and in Naya Bazaar may not have been suitable. They may have been infested with every kind of vermin, but because of a few rupees to be spent in lorry charges or because Ghaziabad, 15 miles from Delhi, was over the borders of the Delhi Province, these stocks must go to godowns which I believe were never used for this purpose before and Lord knows what they contained before. Now, Sir, if that is happening in Delhi, it is probably happening in other places too and I emphasize the point because I think it is a thing in which we all can help. I daresay poking my nose into this matter was not particularly liked in certain quarters. But these are

things in which we carry a responsibility for poking our noses and I think that much can be done to stop this kind of thing

Now, Sir, I am not going to take very much more of the time of the House because I have been raising these points now on this agriculture question here and in other place *ad nauseam*. I can see the Honourable Secretary, Food Department, getting that tired expression that he cannot help feeling when he hears repetition of the various points that have been put before him and before the Honourable Secretary, Agriculture Department, time and time again

I was glad to hear the Honourable Member for Food and Agriculture raise the point of food prices and we on this side have always stressed the necessity for the standardization of prices as soon as this may be done. The reasons are obvious. First of all, unless the cultivator can see ahead a good, sound price for his produce and knows just what those prices are going to yield him, a feeling of insecurity must be there and we could not be certain of our increase. There is another reason and this is that the price of food is, to my mind, a basic principle in the make-up of the nominal *per capita* income of the country. I think that the time is shortly coming when a review will have to be made of the *per capita* income in the country so as to judge just where we stand. I do not see, for instance, how we can possibly fix wage scales and so on—the work that is going on now under the Pay Commission—without just knowing what the *per capita* income of the country is. Clearly, if we start paying out more than we are taking in, we are in the direction of inflation, and, until food prices can be stabilised, I do not see how this review can be made. I feel that we are very largely working in the dark even over these food prices. The price for a commodity changes. Perhaps one year we get a good price for sugar-cane and another year an exceptionally good price for rice or wheat. Over the switch-round of crops this Central Government has no control and the Provinces can change whenever they like. This must be most disturbing and must upset the estimates of what is coming in and what is to be distributed. It is equally certain that until something is done, we shall never know what the cultivator is eating and, as we are told that 60 per cent of the available food is eaten by the agricultural classes, it is important to know just what they are eating.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has anybody worried about it?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: My friend Prof. Ranga says 'Has anybody worried about it?' Well, Sir, I worry about it a good deal and I have studied the subject a good deal because of that.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Thank you.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: My friend, I am glad, expresses the thanks, which I thought would undoubtedly come from Prof. Ranga.

Then, Sir, there is another point that perhaps I might make before I finish. I was a little bit misled by some of the figures produced by the Honourable Member and, in particular, the figure of 3,800,000 tons procurement. If that represents the procurement portion for the consuming part of the population (I gathered from him that 60 per cent was eaten by the agricultural part of the population and 40 per cent by the non-agricultural portion) we have 3,800,000 tons against that 40 per cent. Perhaps later in the debate the Honourable Member or Honourable Secretary will tell us how the rest gets to the consumer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is sold voluntarily.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: By that, I suppose, the Honourable Member means sold outside, the method of compulsory procurement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Without the intervention of these procurers.

Mr. President: Order, Order. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: I look to a possibly more authoritative but no less vocal source for information later in the debate.

Now, Sir, there are a number of other points that I have been frequently pressing. There is the point of fish which I hope will continue to expand in procurement, which I have mentioned on other occasions and which I do not propose to deal with just now. Certain figures were given us the other day. I do not think they indicate very much material advance. I am certain the Department has the most excellent plans, but one day we shall certainly want to see the result of this plan. I asked a question as to what the Department was doing to attract capital to fisheries and I think an Honourable Member from Bengal interjected: "Would the Government say that they would do everything possible to keep this business out of the hands of the capitalists?" One of my reasons for wishing to see the distribution of this trade over a wider field is that certainly in the province from which I come the very danger to which that Honourable Member refers has occurred. In fact, I do not suppose there is a more strongly protected ring than the fishery ring in Calcutta and I would very much like to see that net thrown a bit wider—not the fisherman's net but the capitalist's net. I do not mind if the Provincial Governments feel it worth their while to interest themselves in the project too.

Well, Sir, I do not propose to occupy the House any more. I would like to conclude once again by thanking Dr. Rajendra Prasad for a most able survey which we on this side greatly appreciate.

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) **Mr. President,** Sir, Mr. Lawson followed me in the last debate in this House in February and was good enough to lend support to the plea I made then for concentration on imports into this country and I am glad to follow him on this occasion and lend my support to the case he has made out for concentrated attention on the not negligible problem of storage and the elimination of waste that takes place in this country. I would also like to join Mr. Lawson in welcoming the lucid, fair and frank exposition of the problem that has come from our esteemed friend, the Honourable Member for Food and Agriculture. Since we last discussed this problem, two major developments have taken place. One is for the good, and the other is for the bad. The unfortunate development has been the further deterioration in the food situation revealed in the data made available to us. When we discussed this problem last, we were considering the reduction of the ration in this country from a *per capita* ration of 1 lb. of cereal to that of 12 oz. and we accepted that reduction under protest. We were then assured that the 12 oz. ration was an irreducible minimum and that it was very temporary in its operation, and that the 1 lb. ration would be restored very soon, within a matter of a few months.

Recently, when the Honourable Member delivered his broadcast, he had to indicate a further deterioration in the position and he drew our attention to the fact that, if things could not be improved, even the 12 oz. ration would be in danger. The train of disappointments, the series of disappointments in regard to imports, has undoubtedly been primarily responsible for this further deterioration in our position.

The change for the better is the change that has come over this House and the political change that has come over this country with the establishment of this Interim Government representing various elements in our political life and including the two major political Parties. When we met last we all expressed the hope that if only a National Government could be established in office, then the very bleak situation that faced us then would not continue. I was among those who claimed that it was only a National Government that could speak with authority and on terms of equality in the society of nations and claim for India that justice which was due to it. We also claimed, Sir, that a political government representing the major political parties would be able to exercise moral authority over the provincial Governments and make the surplus provinces in this country play their proper part in contributing towards the national economy.

in regard to food. We also felt and expressed the hope from all sides of the House that only a National government could deal effectively with anti-social elements and anti-social practices. Unless, Sir, this political change for the better can check the deterioration that has taken place, those hopes that we expressed would be belied. If this Government representing the people of this country cannot check this deterioration and can, not only maintain the 12 oz ration which it has today, but also look forward within a period of months to restoring the 1 lb ration, which in itself is inadequate for human needs, then, Sir, I feel that the challenge to the existence of this National government will not have been met.

I am therefore very gratified to see the note of determination that runs right through the speech of the Honourable Member and the guarded optimism that he has expressed that, unless further ill-luck dogs our steps, we shall be able to surmount the immediate crisis that faces us in the remaining two months of this year. It is in the spirit of strengthening that note of determination and optimism, that this country can meet this food problem, both in the short range and long range problem, that I would like respectfully to make a few submissions to the House and to the Honourable the Food Member and to suggest certain detailed ways and means by which the food crisis can be tidied over.

When I moved an amendment in the Food Debate in February last, which this House accepted, I stressed the importance of imports—added imports from overseas. Today, I would like to shift the emphasis to what can be done in this country because, in spite of all the efforts that have been made, in spite of the success of the mission to the Argentine and the removal of difficulties in the case of Indonesia, it is quite clear that—so far as the next seven or eight weeks are concerned—very little relief may be expected from overseas. If anything comes, that will certainly help us. But it is becoming more and more evident that we shall have to rely on our own resources if we are going to maintain our present ration and turn the corner from 1946 to 1947. It has been said that if only we can get additional imports in the next two months of the order of 515,000 tons of food grains, we can avoid any major breakdown of our system. It is obvious also that only a fraction of this can be expected from overseas and that therefore, we shall have to look, for the major part of these 515,000 tons, to our own country.

That brings us to a choice between two alternatives: either we can hope for nothing better than what has already been obtained from the surplus provinces and from such stocks as might be hidden in all the provinces of this country, in which case we would have to resort to the expedient of cutting the ration again, or we must bridge the gap of 515,000 tons. I was very happy to see today that the Honourable Member did not even refer to the grim possibility of a further cut in the ration, and I would like to express to him the gratitude of the House that he has found it possible to avoid such a recourse because only six weeks ago, in the course of his broadcast, he found it necessary in the public interest to sound a note of warning when he said "It may become necessary, and people must be prepared, for a further reduction in the rationing of cereals, particularly rice." If his silence today means that we can now lay that possibility aside and look forward at least to the maintenance of the present ration and to its ultimate increase in the not too distant future, then I am sure it is a matter for gratification today for us. But just in case any lurking thought may continue, not in his mind, but in any other minds among those who wield authority in this particular regard, I would like Sir, to make the submission that the needs of the case do not justify recourse to any further cut in the ration.

The present ration, as we all know, has a caloric value of anything between 1,000 and 1,200 calories a day. One of our delegates, who has just returned to this House today from the Copenhagen Food and Agriculture Conference, after taking part, along with the delegates of other countries, in fixing world targets, will tell you that at that Conference they fixed on a *per capita* ration of 2,600 calories. Yet, in our country today, we have ration of which it has been said

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that "it is so little that a man cannot live and so much that he cannot die" Is that a ration, Sir, which any Government can even contemplate reducing still further? A Member of the U S Food Mission, to which the Honourable Member referred, went back to America and said "If we mean by 'alive' a human being in full possession of his five senses, then the Indian people are not alive" It was very distressing for us to have read in the broadcast of the Honourable Member that the deterioration had gone so far that even that terrible expedient of reducing the basic subsistence of our people still further was not absolutely absent from his own mind, particularly when the Provincial Food Ministers' Conference passed a resolution on 10th August 1946, which was accepted, I understand, by the Government of India That resolution, Sir, is one which I am sure, if this House were to express itself in that formal way, would find ready acceptance It said

"After carefully examining the over all picture of the food-grains position in India, this Conference is definitely of opinion that the present over all ration of 12 oz. is already inadequate and a further cut is bound to have disastrous consequences on the health and life of the people Also, such a course will defeat its very object by slowing down procurement, shaking public confidence and causing general confusion and unrest This Conference, speaking in the name of 400 million Indians calls upon the Government of India, and regards it as their clear duty, to redouble their efforts to secure additional supplies from overseas without which a breakdown on a wide scale cannot be avoided"

There is another important reason why this flow of food from the producing to the consuming end needs to be kept going without interruption Just before coming up to Delhi, I had the misfortune to live in a part of Bombay where the Water Department of the Bombay Municipality lowered the pressure Being on a hill-part of the city, I found that the storage tanks got easily emptied But the point is that even when the storage tanks filled up later when the pressure was increased, the water did not automatically begin to flow again A vacuum had been created, air had rushed in and it required plumbing operations before the water which was in the tank above could reach the tap and the showers in the bath-room The flow of food supplies is rather of the same kind It goes through a pipe line and the pipe line has got to be kept filled all the time if it is not to dry up The position we in the South face is that on 1st November we have one month's stocks in the Provinces of Bombay and Madras, and at the present rate, on 1st December, we shall have, I believe, only 18 days' stocks In other words, our storage tanks will start getting emptied, and if these storage tanks are not replenished in time from those parts of the country where surpluses exist, it will not be possible, when the new crop comes on the market or new supplies become available, to push these stocks down the pipe line which by that time will have gone dry and where a vacuum will have been created It is therefore highly essential that an uninterrupted flow of foodstuffs down this pipe line should continue at whatever cost

My Honourable Friend, and any one else who takes a grim view of the picture, would then be entitled to ask "How is this gap of five lakhs of tons, which we expected from overseas and which may not materialise, to be made good?" I am not suggesting for a moment that the demand for imports should not be kept going insistently We have every right, at every international gathering, to point out that the present position, where the people of more favoured countries can eat a diet of three thousand calories or more while leaving the people of India to make shift with a thousand-calorie diet, is inconsistent with the ideal of One World which is professed by the Democracies of the world We also have the right to point out that if people in other far away countries take the view that they are not interested in our plight, they are not doing their duty in the comity of nations But if we turn the search-light inwards, I think we shall also find that there are parts of this country which might not illegitimately be accused of showing a similar indifference to the plight of those who are less fortunately situated than themselves

I come to the question of provincial surpluses And here I should like to say that I wish I could share the satisfaction which the Honourable Member

has expressed at the progress made with the scheme of compulsory procurement in the various provinces of this country. I noticed that the Honourable Member qualified his satisfaction by saying that one could "almost" say that most provinces had gone in or were going in, "more or less" in for monopoly procurement. That, Sir, is not satisfactory, because at the Food Ministers' Conference a Resolution moved by the delegate of the Punjab Government, Sardar Baldev Singh, was unanimously carried, and that resolution runs as follows

"This Conference is of opinion that the time has now come when in every Province and State, surplus or deficit, procurement of rice and wheat shall be by Government monopoly, and by compulsory levy wherever necessary, and possible. Where other cereals are important they too should be procured by similar Government monopoly. Only by such steps can the resources of this country be best mobilised."

Now, going through the note which was circulated by the Food Department to us a few days back, I find that this is not a situation which has by any means been achieved. It is true that progress has been made in the past few weeks, but I suggest that the progress is not commensurate with the gravity of our position. I understand—and I am prepared to be corrected by the Food Secretary when he replies to the debate—that in the Punjab, monopoly procurement exists for rice, but that for wheat it only applies to surplus districts of the province. I suggest that the next step forward, which should also be an immediate step, should be for the Punjab Government to bring in monopoly procurement not only in surplus districts but also to bring it into play in the case of individuals who may have surpluses but who live in deficit districts. So that, as in Bombay and Madras and other provinces, that individual surplus or the surplus of a particular farm can be brought into the market under Government control. Bihar and U P have gone in for a compulsory levy, but there one finds that the levy is rather light and the exemption limits are high and the incidence of that levy bears no comparison with what it does in more progressive provinces. And Bengal, I am afraid, cannot avoid the charge of having defaulted substantially because, while half the districts in that province are nominally under direct procurement, as far as we can ascertain, about 80 to 85 per cent of the total produce is still being left for collection to the Chief Purchasing Agents and is not being done departmentally, as it should be in any scheme of monopoly procurement. This is reflected in the figures of percentages of the amount procured of the marketable surplus to which my Honourable Friend referred this morning. Here are the figures. I am leaving aside the Punjab and Sind because, as the Honourable Member rightly pointed out, different considerations apply in their case, but as between the provinces which are of the same nature it will be found that there is a wide disparity in the percentages procured in various provinces. Madras obviously takes the prize because, in the case of rice it managed to procure 94 per cent of its total marketable surplus. Bombay came next with 68 per cent in rice and 81 per cent in wheat. And then we have a sudden drop to U P, which in the last figures available procured only 16 per cent of rice and 16 per cent of wheat, Bengal, which procured 19 per cent, and Bihar which procured only 11 per cent. The total, as the Honourable Member pointed out, of procured foodgrains is 3.8 million tons out of a marketable surplus of 24 million tons, which is about 15 per cent. I should like respectfully to suggest to the Honourable Member that this is not a percentage about which we can feel any satisfaction. We are talking about the marketable surplus and not the total produce, some of which the peasants would keep with themselves. There is no reason why in every province of this country the larger part of the marketable surplus should not be procured by the Provincial Governments as the provinces of Madras and Bombay have managed to do for themselves. The only hope, therefore, would appear to be that the provincial surpluses should be adequately drawn into the common pool and I should like to ask the Honourable Member, or the Food Secretary who will speak for him, whether the Government of India are satisfied, for instance, that a surplus province like the Punjab has done all it can and is doing all it can to part with supplies which can be made available in the next few weeks by way of a loan to tide over the deficit

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provinces whose ration would otherwise be in danger. Is it true, for instance, that while in the past the figures of production prepared by the Punjab Government have tallied with the figures of the sample survey prepared by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, in the case of the last crop the Punjab Government's figures are materially lower than the figure the sample surveys of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research would show? If so, what is the view that the Central Government take of this disparity in the figures of yield? As I said, we have every right to quarrel with Americans and Russians and any others who cannot or do not adequately come to our rescue. But a pre-condition to our claims on them surely is that at least in India itself all the provinces and all the people are prepared to pool their own resources. Therefore, Sir, if imports cannot give us the five lakhs of which we are short in the next two months, surely a part at least of the five lakhs can yet be obtained by further loans from surplus provinces like the Punjab.

Another means of making up this gap would be to offer incentives to the peasants to come out with past stocks which they have not disclosed so far. I am not ignoring the considerations urged by the Honourable Member in resisting the raising of prices. That is an issue in itself into which I will not enter, perhaps my Honourable friend Prof Ranga and others may have something to say on that point! But assuming that the considerations pointed out by the Honourable Member against a rise in the price of foodgrains are sound and valid, even so, temporary inducements should not be out of the question, because the problem we are facing is one of life and death. And in that regard, I believe, an example has already been set by the Province of Madras which, I understand, in the month of May offered a bonus of one rupee per maund to cultivators who came forward with stocks. That amount I understand has been raised to Rs. 2 per maund. At the same time, no questions are asked as to where the foodgrains have come from, in other words immunity is given to a man who may or may not have put away the stocks for a rainy day. In any case, an incentive has been given to the cultivators

to come forward with their reserve stocks and thus to keep the ration intact. I should be glad to know if the Government of India can not recommend to other provinces such a method of financial bonus to bring out stocks which most people assert lie hidden here and there throughout the country. I know that there will be the danger that the cultivator who has got the bonus once and has tasted that profit may feel he had better do the same thing again by putting away some food to stow with and produce it in case there is similar scarcity again. But those dangers have to be faced. I think the necessity of keeping our present ration intact is such a supreme necessity that it justifies us in taking a chance by offering bonuses of a like nature to those offered by the Government of Madras.

An alternative method would be to make available to the cultivator who comes forward immediately with foodgrains consumers goods on preferential terms. I believe in my own province of Bombay the Provincial Government has been considering, and probably has by now put into operation, some such incentive—that a cultivator who comes forward with a material stock of foodgrains would have easier access to cloth or to implements or to manure compared with another who may not do so. These are two possible ways in which an incentive can be given for the immediate production of stocks.

I wonder, Sir, these methods are not adequate to produce five lakhs of tons, though I believe that they should—with imports on one side provincial surpluses better mobilized and brought into play by way of loans on the other, and on the third hand incentives to the cultivators throughout the country to come forward with stocks which they may have spare. I should imagine that five lakhs should not be too much to expect out of these various sources.

[At this stage Mr President vacated the Chair which was occupied by Mr Deputy President (Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan)]

After all, five lakhs is less than one per cent of our total foodgrain production in a year, and if this Government has, as I believe it has, moral authority and political leadership over the masses of this country by reason of its representing the major political parties as well as other elements, then it should not be beyond the leadership of this Government to produce less than one per cent of our total annual produce. We are aware how at the present time, the people of Britain, faced with the necessity of building up their export trade, are doing without the essential comforts of life and seeing them shipped under their very noses to foreign countries so that Britain's export trade might be built up. They are going short of socks, shoes and other necessities of life, so that people abroad can buy although they have made them. If this national discipline can be enforced by the British Labour Government I feel that our National Government, faced with the possibility of starvation or breakdown of our rationing system can produce even better results in national discipline.

But I would say that, if all these methods fail, then there is one last expedient which I would like to place before this House and before the Honourable Member and that is to bring into force those principles of equitable distribution to which he referred in his speech this morning.

I understand in the City of Delhi, while a loaf of bread is on the ration, even today dinner loaves can be had off the ration. It is a small point, but it shows that even today the upper classes in this country are doing well for themselves at the expense of the masses. And to take the argument a little further, if I can eat fish, eggs, and chickens, if I can afford milk and a variety of vegetables and fruits, do I really need the same 12 ounce ration that a poor man does, for whom rice and wheat are his staple and practically his entire diet? My Honourable Friend made an appeal which has already produced some results in that direction. I remember reading in the papers in Bombay that within a few days of his broadcast a thousand people in Ahmedabad gave up their cereal ration for one week. That was a fine response, and we are glad to know that the Honourable Member has had evidence of similar responsiveness not only from Ahmedabad but various other parts of the country. In our own City of Bombay, the People's Provincial Food Council launched a campaign to induce the well-to-do classes to give up at least half, if not the whole of their cereal ration for a period of three months, and I am thankful to the Government of India for the support they gave us in the way of advertising space. But the result was that after two months of campaigning we were able to get 1200 people of the well-to-do or upper classes to give up their ration. It is a drop in the ocean, even so we should pay our tribute to those who gave up their ration as public spirited people. But the point is that in the City of Bombay itself, there are at least 10 000 motor car owners and thousands of club members. If the social conscience of our upper classes is not adequately developed to the needs of the situation, I wonder if there is any reason why our Government cannot enforce restrictions which will make that conscience come to life, and what I would like to suggest is that, if even any modification of the present ration were to become necessary, rather than make a flat cut of two or three ounces in the ration, a differential ration on an income basis needs to be considered first. I am told that is all very well for non-vegetarians, what about the poor vegetarians. I will not go in detail into the nutritional side of the question here, but I can assure Honourable Members who may have such fears that the kind of nutrition that cereals give, which is known as carbohydrate, can be adequately and easily replaced from other vegetables, fruits and nuts and that one does not need meat or fish to replace rice or wheat. There is a long list of foodstuffs with which you can replace your cereal ration. A pound of potatoes can replace your wheat ration and other substitutes which are manifold include gram, lentils, soya beans, sago, tapioca, macaroni, groundnuts, cashew nut, dry coconut, bananas, and plantains, raisins and dates, honey, sugarcane and jaggery. A reasonable quantity of some of these would make up for the cereal ration of 12 ounces for the day, particularly in

[Mr M R Masani]

the case of people who can also have milk and other milk and vegetable products to take. Therefore, if our upper classes do not respond in time to the call of the country, I for one would like to see Government consider the institution of a differential ration in the case of people who pay income-tax on incomes of more than Rs 5,000 a year. That is an arbitrary figure, details will need to be worked out. But it should not be beyond the administrative capacity to Government to draw a line between those who can do without cereals and those who cannot. In fact, if we go back in history we find that in the days of Ancient Iran there was a King named Tehmuras. Once during his reign, says a history book, a great famine swept over his kingdom. "Tehmuras introduced fasting as one of the measures of relief. He decreed that the rich and the well-to-do should take one meal a day, and give away the morning meal to the poor of the land. This order was compulsory for everyone of his subjects and heavy punishment was meted out to anyone who dared to defy the King's order." This shows that even in olden times it was not considered inequitable, Sir, that when famine and starvation faced the common people, the upper class should be coerced, if necessary, to do with the minimum which it needs for its requirements. Since we cannot ration meat and vegetable and other products, let us leave the cereal ration for the common people of this country who cannot afford anything else.

That, Sir, is the spirit in which I would like the declaration made by the Honourable Member that we hope to tide over our crisis to be implemented, and I do hope that when the Food Secretary replies, he will be able to give us an assurance that so far as the immediate crisis for the next two months is concerned, we can leave out of consideration any threat to our present, already inequitable ration of 12 ounces, and that in that spirit, Dr Rajendra Prasad's declaration that "we refuse to be defeated" will be honoured and respected by Government.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma (Meerut Division Non-Muhammadian Urban) Much emphasis has been laid as to how much food has been procured and how it was distributed. But mere procurement and distribution will not suffice. It is the question of production that is important. So far as the present crisis is concerned, if the Government assures the producer that the next crop if it is a better crop may fetch him a better price, then I assume the Honourable Member that there is so much food in rural India that you can meet the crisis without any difficulty. I have been in the procurement line in the United Provinces and I know that still a lot of it is lying in the houses of the cultivators. But the trouble is that if the prices are not attractive, there is neither the stability nor the guarantee that if he produces more his produce will find a market to-morrow. The 1st world war's experience is still fresh in his mind. What happened after the 1st world war? During that war he went on producing more and more, and after the war had ended that surplus was not marketable. The prices fell and the cultivator was nowhere. During the last war in England there was a guarantee that the minimum wages would be given to the cultivator and the market would be found for their grain. In India there is no such guarantee and the prices are not stable. You must also look to the need of the cultivator. The price of a bullock has gone up ten times. Iron has gone up, so far as the cultivator is concerned, no less than 50 times. Ordinary timber it is difficult for the cultivator to get. So when you talk of procuring grain, I again assure the Honourable Member that there is so much grain that the present need is not difficult to be met. But the question is not only that the cultivator is not willing to sell but that is the position, because he feels insecure and he has developed an apathy towards the city population. The conflict is between the man who produces and between the man who enjoys, and many of the things which are unpleasant today owe their origin to this conflict. You cannot ignore it. What I mean to say is that too much emphasis is laid on the question of procurement and on the system of distribution.

but very little emphasis is laid on the question of production, its method and the facilities to be provided for it. Today we have the Honourable Food Member's statement in a English daily with headlines 'Food situation dangerously insecure'. The situation has been insecure for a long time past. As far back as 1942, the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research made recommendations for growing more food, and in 1942 a conference for growing more food was called. It recommended certain measures, namely

- (a) an increase in the area under food and fodder crops by—
 - (i) bringing new land, including fallow land, under cultivation,
 - (ii) double cropping, and
 - (iii) diverting land from non-food crops to food crops
- (b) an increase in the supply of water for irrigation by the improvement and extension of existing irrigation canals, the construction of additional wells, etc.,
- (c) the extended use of manures and fertilizers,
- (d) an increase in the supply of improved seeds.

The difficulties that arose in the way were described, namely lack of water, lack of drainage, unhealthy conditions, chiefly due to malaria, deep-rooted grasses and weeds, low fertility of the soil, salinity and alkalinity, and liability to damage by wild animals.

Some of the difficulties pointed out were simply frivolous. No deliberate and determined effort has been made to produce more food, and the situation is that since 1942 we are where we were. Food has not increased and without an increase of food, the system of procurement and perhaps a better system of distribution cannot be achieved. After 1942, when these attempts were made, there came the terrible famine of Bengal of 1943 wherein no less than 35 lakhs of our people died. We called it callous disregard for human life and we said it was due to the inefficiency or lack of appreciation on the part of the Government at that time. But what is the present situation? Have we improved any the better? Sir, the UNRRA Food Committee recommended that a diet containing 2,650 calories would be necessary, in addition to the necessary nutrition of other elements as the amount necessary to keep up the full health and efficiency of man. A diet of 2,000 calories was considered just sufficient to keep a man going and sustain his energy. Mr Bevin was recently shedding tears that 40 million people in Europe were getting 1,500 calories of food. Japan was getting 1,575 calories and Germany was getting no less than 1,500. But Japan and Germany are enemy countries and we were the favoured allies of the great powers. Yet we got from 900 to 1,000 calories and at 900 they say that death begins. So we are somewhere between death and life. It is dying a long time. A terrible situation. It is a pity that with a country like ours and with the man power that we possess we have got this miserable state of affairs in our land. One element that has been largely responsible for the decrease in food is that 2 million of our youth were recruited for the army. The decrease in food was mainly due to the shortage of labour. The best youth of the country went to the army and labourers in the field joined factories and industrial concerns. Now the labour of the field has gone out of the field altogether and for ever. They are not returning back. They have taken to other occupations and the cultivator will never be able to pay what labour demands now, because it is too high.

Agriculture in this country unfortunately has been merely an occupation. It has never been a profession. Those who could not do better elsewhere were left to agriculture. As a matter of fact it was a sort of residue of society. That sort of class can never be expected to pay labour in terms of its demands. The only remedy lies in utilising the energy and the labour of the demobilised soldiers. If you meet a soldier in the streets you will find that he is unwilling to go back to the field. So the position is that the field worker has gone out, the youth of the village who joined the army and is coming back after being

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demobilised is unwilling to join agriculture or work on the field. It is a difficult problem which has to be tackled with great determination and deliberate and planned strategy. Without planning you can never expect to have greater production and without greater production we cannot meet the demand of the increasing population in our country.

There has been great emphasis on the imports from other countries. Many deputations have been sent to foreign countries and many of our able leaders have placed our case before the world with ability but the response has been poor. So the question is whether it is safe to depend on foreign countries. The English became our masters by supplying us with fine clothes and things of comfort and convenience. It is difficult to believe that England and America have ever returned altruistic to play the role of a Christian Samaritan. If you hold the beggar's bowl before them the supply would come at the cost of your liberty. Take the case of Russia. The border countries which are being supplied with food by Russia are coming under its political domination. They could appease their hunger at the cost of their liberty. There are no two opinions about that. So it is not a safe thing to depend on imports from abroad. It has not been a pleasant experience to get things of comfort and luxuries from other countries and it would not be pleasant in future either. We have to depend on our own resources and our resources must be so organised that in the future our demands should not be allowed to outgrow our production and steps should be so taken that there would be no question of inadequacy of food in our country.

One thing which would go a great way in creating a new life in our society and encourage the producer to produce more is systematic and organised propaganda. We have our broadcasting department. What has it done? It only broadcasts cheap songs daily. If we start with something to tell the villager that the old chapter has ended, new life born, new spirit permeate, and that he has to play a great part in the present situation and in the times to come, that his role is superior and more responsible than that of others, he would be induced to labour harder and be more responsive to our appeals. After all during the war by propaganda and publicity 2 million of our youth went to the army. If a man can be induced by systematic propaganda to face death, not for his own country, or his people but at the command of a foreign ruler who has never been kind to him, then it needs no logic to see that he can be induced to work harder for his own people at the command of his own great leaders and for the fair name of his own country. The first thing is to create a new psychological change in the cultivator, to give him a more honourable place, to make him understand that he is as good and honourable a creature as anybody else and that he is no longer the residue of society. Let him know that from now on he has become an honourable man, that he has a responsibility that he is something to be counted upon, that the sustenance of the people lies in his hands and that on account of the labour that he does on the field his place in society is better than that of anybody else's. He should be told all this through broadcast and through publicity organisations and non-official committees. We had in the U P non-official committees of M L As to procure food. Before that the district authorities went to the people. They asked under the threat of law that the cultivator should give his grain and the people refused. Nobody came forward from the villages. When they came they said they did not get timber, they did not get iron, they did not get any bullocks nor any of the articles they needed were supplied to them. "And now you may shoot us down but we will not give you grain to eat." They refused. But when the non-officials went round, they promised that the timber would be supplied to them, the iron would be supplied to them, bullocks would be provided for them, and ploughs would be given to them. The cultivators willingly supplied the requisite grain. The promises have not yet materialised. That is the tragedy of the situation. When we asked the government "Please give us these things which we promised at your instance, will you fulfil them?" They said "Yes, we will try to do it." But when the

time for the fulfilment of the promises came they were deaf. This position has created all the difficulty. We made certain promises at the instance of the authorities. Those promises have not been fulfilled, and now if we ask the ministers and the authorities to do the needful, they do not listen. So, when we go again to the villages, they cry "Once you have deceived us, next time we are not going to believe what you say." I say again there is so much gain in the rural areas that you can meet the demand and tide over the crisis. But the fact remains that the cultivator has made certain demands and we have not met those demands. The Government have to co-ordinate the position from the centre with the help of the provinces. The Government have got to have a vigorous campaign. I want the government to tell the cultivator on the broadcast something like this "You have a new life, you have a new sense of responsibility", then they will respond to the call as once they said they would. Let them begin with a song like Goethe's—

'Build it again,
Great Child of Earth,
Build it again—
With a finer worth,
In thine own bosom build it on high,
'Take up the life once more,
Run the race again,
High and clear
Let a lovelier strain
Ring out than ever before."

Something like that you have to sing. Say goodbye to the useless song, say goodbye to the things that are not palatable to the man in the street. The government must have a purpose, and objective. You must make a determined effort and adopt a deliberate policy, a policy that will create new life and a new sense of responsibility in the cultivator. Without all this you cannot hope to create an atmosphere to bring in more produce into the market. It is impossible. Things have come to a crisis, not because there is want of production and not because enough cannot be produced or is not being produced, but because the producer stands apart from the consumer. He is not willing to sympathise with the consumer. He has suffered and he is not prepared to suffer longer. So you have to change the existing state of things. You must have a planned economy and a deliberate and determined effort.

I come now to how it is possible to produce more under the present conditions. To produce more you have to give additional labour help to the cultivator. As I said, the decrease in production was caused by over two million people going to the war, from the field, and also by a lot of labour joining the factories. Therefore it is the function of the Central Government so to plan the economy that those areas now lying waste are brought under cultivation. We have got in this country over 250 million acres lying waste or fallow, that can be brought under cultivation. It might be said that it requires long term planned economy and that nothing can be done tomorrow. It might be that you cannot have water reservoirs tomorrow, but you can dig wells. If during the last war the Burma jungles could be laid low and roads opened and many great things could be done, not in months but in weeks and days, then I see no reason why wells cannot be dug tomorrow and why *kutha* wells cannot be constructed soon, and why river water cannot be raised, or tank water could not be raised. Very little mechanism is required to do all these things, but we are failing as perhaps we never have failed before. The need of the hour is great efforts and determined efforts but we have been supplied with long range policies. We were told last time that every green field would be seen with vegetables and fruits growing thereon, but we see today that the green fields are as good or as bad as ever. Promises were made and policies were laid down but no actual change in the affairs has happened. So, long range policies and big promises will not help. It is only immediate action that can help. The cultivator will respond in the measure that you actually work out your plans tomorrow. If you fail for a day the country will fail you for two days. I want you to start him again with whatever little help can be given to him, and I do not think that you cannot do much. You can do much. Where is the difficulty

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in digging wells? Where is the difficulty in not utilising river water? Where is the difficulty in providing manure and good seed? These are things which alone can increase production by 50 per cent. Further, the agricultural department can issue a list of substitute food. It is not necessary to take as much cereals as one usually takes. There are other substitute foods which people can take. The higher class people can take less of cereals and more of other foods and so you have to plan accordingly. The balanced diet is an important question. Cereals may be reduced and other nutritious elements added.

As my Honourable friend said, in Madras you are giving wheat which the people there do not like, they like rice, but if you ask them to live on bajra or jowar for two months, it disagrees with their system, but perhaps if you give wheat along with it, you will get a better diet. The necessary thing is to plan production, and to plan diet and then to make a vigorous propaganda for the objective. Take all measures necessary to save food where possible. Much of food is wasted in family and on ceremonial occasions. Procuring and distribution are necessary measures but production is more important for unless you can produce more you cannot distribute more. After all we shall have to produce more some time and so why not do it immediately? My only submission is that you should take immediate steps and take those steps effectively and the position will improve and it will improve in no time. At present, I would suggest that vigorous propaganda is necessary. The formation of non-official committees is necessary and co-ordination with the Provincial Government is a further step that would help it. With the co-ordination and sympathetic co-operation of the Provincial Governments, the Central Government may go into details with regard to the particular areas and find out the possibilities of growing particular crops and possibility of an increase in the quantity produced and I am confident that in no time things will improve with very little effort and with a little improvement in the things necessary for the cultivator for producing the crop, I have no doubt that 50 per cent of the increment would be forthcoming. Most of our manure is wasted. A little propaganda in this direction and a little co-ordination with the Provincial Governments can save lot of manure. Cowdung is a precious kind of manure which is wasted as fuel. Pressure from the Local Governments to induce the forest department to supply them with cheap fuel would save the cultivator lot of precious manure. There are other kinds of manures which can be made easily available and with the good manure available to the villages, the yield can be increased by 15 per cent and if you supply good seed this will help further increase the yield. My experience of the United Provinces goes to show that good seed is never supplied in time. When the peasant needs the seed, it is not supplied to him in time. If good seed is supplied to him at the proper time, the production can be very easily increased. If ordinary irrigation wells are dug out and water is made available then, Sir, the crop can be increased. There may be double cropping, triple cropping and cultivator may have many crops in a year. It is not very difficult to give proper irrigation facilities. If this is done, we shall have good harvests in time and that will improve the situation. Let us meet the situation as brave men and with all the resources at our command instead of going about with the beggars' bowls before this country and that, risking things which are precious in life, which are precious today and which would be much more precious tomorrow for the generations to come. I express my sense of gratitude to the Honourable Food Member for the steps he is taking and hope much more determined efforts would be made.

With these words I take my seat.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I heartily congratulate the Honourable Food Member for his masterly analysis of the food position in the country. The country is grateful to him for the effort he is making to save the starving millions. He has said that he wanted 7 million tons in the beginning. Out of that, he wanted to get 4 millions from outside the country and during the last few months several delegations have gone out with begging bowls in their hands, with the result that so far we have succeeded in securing only 1.7 million tons. While

on this point, I wish to say that we should make efforts to produce all our food from inside the country and we should stop looking forward to other countries to get food from those places. I quite agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson when he said that in the note which was circulated to the members a very large number of pages were devoted to the efforts which the Government of India made to secure food from outside. The position should have been just the other way about. Efforts should have been made to grow more food in this country. The Honourable the Food Member has given large number of figures but he has omitted to mention how much area during the last year the grow more food campaign of the Government of India has actually brought under the plough and how much grain has been produced by the efforts of that campaign. The Honourable Member has not mentioned these figures. It would have helped the House to come to some decision if he had mentioned as to what efforts the Government of India is making to produce food immediately. The Honourable the Food Member has mentioned that Government has now sanctioned subsidies to sink more wells and to help other means of irrigation. On this point I may mention that the efforts of the Government of India so far in this direction have remained mostly on the files only undefined. I speak subject to correction. Last year the Government of India decided that it will offer 50 per cent subsidies to those agriculturists who sink wells on their own lands. Out of this 50 per cent, 25 per cent are to be met by the Government of India and the remaining 25 per cent are to be met by the Provincial Governments. I know from personal knowledge from my province of the Punjab, the Punjab Government failed to avail of this facility. I understand from the Agricultural Secretary now that the Punjab Government have reconsidered the position and now they might contribute their 25 per cent quota but I wish the Honourable the Food Member to make sure whether all the Governments will fall in with this scheme, because the scheme has already met with some obstacles in some of the provinces. We can produce more food if irrigation and other facilities are made available to the cultivator. The greatest help which the Government can give is to make water available to the agriculturists. In my province most of the land is lying uncultivated for want of water. In certain villages about 50 per cent of the land can be brought under the plough if water can be made available to them. Then, again, the Government of India have so far done nothing to provide agricultural implements, such as, tractors, and manures and other things, which can help them to grow more food. The Government of India has spent 15½ crores to subsidise the imports of foodgrains. If the same amount had been spent in the other direction, I think the results would have been much better. I hope the Government of India even now will turn in that direction and will immediately make available to the cultivators all the things which they want.

One other thing which is worrying me is the availability of the bullocks to which the Honourable Member referred and in which he is personally interested. In these days the price of the bullocks has gone up very much. The Honourable Member gave the index figures about wheat, sugar and other articles which the agriculturist is selling, but if he had taken the trouble to find out the index number of the bullocks—I doubt very much if the Government of India maintains that index number here—he would have found that the price of the bullocks and buffaloes has gone up by 4 or 5 times. I am, very much dissatisfied with the announcement of the Honourable the Food Member that it would not be possible for him to increase the prices of the foodgrains. He said that he is in a difficulty. He is, Sir, like a man who has two wives. One of them represents the agriculturists and the other the consumers. In this connection, I would like to submit that the wife representing the consumers is very clever. She has got means of propaganda and she can adopt various ways and methods in order to please him. But the other wife representing the agriculturists, though faithful, is simple. She does not know the use of cosmetics and therefore it is not possible for her to please the Honourable the Food Member. Unconsciously, therefore, the Food Member is favouring the other wife.

Sir Gowdasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official). You are afraid of the other wife.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan). Let him have the third wife

Sardar Mangal Singh: I hope when things are brought home to him, he will consider the position calmly and try to encourage the cultivator to grow more food just as he has done in the case of sugar-cane growers. He has rightly increased the price of the sugar-cane in Bihar and the United Provinces and I hope he will similarly encourage the cultivators all over India to get a fair price for their produce. In this connection, while we should increase our produce, we should also take steps to avoid wastage. At the present moment, we are losing 3 million tons of foodgrains on account of their wastage by rats and other insects. This is a huge figure.

In this connection, although the wastage is comparatively small, I wish to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Food Member one small item of wastage which is now being carried on at Quetta. There is a Government-owned factory there which is manufacturing what is known as coal eggs. In this factory they are burning *ata*. I am told that during the last two years they have burnt about 20,000 maunds of *ata*. The Honourable the Food Secretary shakes his head. I will request him to make detailed inquiries. That factory is at Quetta and they are manufacturing coal eggs by mixing coal, coaltar and *ata* in some proportions. This coal egg is burnt in the cold weather for heating purposes. I hope the Honourable the Food Secretary will make note of it and make inquiries in the matter.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Is that *ata* unfit for human consumption?

Sardar Mangal Singh: That is the point I was coming to. It is said that that *ata* is a condemned *ata*. But I would like to invite the attention of the Food Secretary to the fact that Quetta has a cold climate and of all the cities why *ata* at Quetta should be condemned as unfit for human consumption. I am told there is some *gol-mal* about it. Somebody is selling and somebody is buying. I will request him to make inquiries into that matter. The whole affair appears to be fishy.

Then, again, Government in other countries helps the agriculturist in several ways. The Government of India here should make available tractors and petrol practically at a nominal price. Government should also make available electricity in the villages for agricultural purposes. Immediate steps can be taken by sinking tube wells which can be run with the aid of electricity and more food can be grown, particularly in villages near the cities.

About procurements, I am glad that the Government of India have, after all, succeeded in having the monopoly procurement practically all over the country. But there may be still some people who might be hoarding grains and they might be waiting for favourable prices. In this connection, I would submit that the Government can take over the grains lying with the cultivators and give them a receipt telling them that the cultivator should be at liberty to cash those receipts at any time whenever he thinks that the prices are favourable to him. This method has been used in the U S A and it has brought very good results. At the present time, some people are keeping back the grains. They might think that in January or February or even in March just before the harvest, they might get higher prices. In order to allay their fears or apprehensions, I suggest that Government can say that they take over all the grains and give them receipts. Let them cash those receipts at any time they like. By this method you will be able to get more grains without offering any bonus or subsidy as has been suggested by my Honourable friend Mr. Masani. This will give confidence to agriculturists to part with their food grains.

Mr. Deputy President: The House will now adjourn.

The Assembly then adjourned till eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 6th November 1946.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 6th NOVEMBER, 1946

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Wednesday, 6th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

Mr. President: A representation has been made to me that Mr Chanda is not in a fit state of health to walk the distance to the table and should therefore be permitted to take the oath from his seat I grant him that permission

Mr Arun Kumar Chanda, M L A (Surma Valley cum Shillong Non-Muhammadian)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

HYDARI MISSION REPORT

201. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state

(a) whether Government will place a copy of the Report of the Hydari Mission in the Library of the House for the use of the members of the Central Legislature, and

(b) whether all consumer goods mentioned in that Report have actually been received in India, if only some portion of those goods has been received how much more goods are yet to come and whether arrangement reached then will be adhered to?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) In respect of consumer goods, the object of the Hydari Mission was to stimulate the flow of consumer goods into India in the year 1945 No precise undertakings were entered into as to what quantities would be sent from the U K, the Mission indicated the main types of goods of which India was in need and indicated also India's approximate requirements Since that time the system of Open General Licence has been widely extended, and the position now is, as regards consumer goods in general, that importers in India are at liberty to import whatever quantities they can locate, without any interference by Government As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, the supply position of consumer goods in India has very greatly improved If the Honourable Member wants to ascertain exactly what quantities of any particular types of consumer goods have been imported recently into India, I would ascertain statistics from the Commerce Department and let him have them

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House, if he has got the information ready with him now, whether it was not one of the objects of the Hydari Mission to get special machinery and equipment which would expedite coal production? I should like to know whether such machinery was imported and also whether some of this machinery after importation was found to be useless

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should like to examine the matter and give the information to the Honourable Member

Seth Govind Das: How are these imports of consumer goods going to affect our sterling balance with the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think it is much too soon to answer that question at present

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the present Government have reviewed the list and is taking care to see that such categories of goods as are produced in this country are not affected by importation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter which we keep constantly under review

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, has the Honourable Member removed from the list any categories of goods so far?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not a question of removing goods altogether from the list. The matter has got to be determined with reference to the actual production in India of that particular class of goods and the extent to which India's requirements exceed the production. It is a matter which, I think, has got to be examined on the merits of each case.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is a question of regulating the quantity, what steps are taken by Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is roughly the principle on which we proceed

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Government of India will give first priority to the import of agricultural implements and agricultural machinery?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That, I think, is an important matter which we will certainly keep in mind
COMMISSION TO BRITISH FIRM FOR PURCHASE OF MACHINERY FOR FERTILIZER FACTORY AT SINDRI

202. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state

(a) whether the transaction relating to the purchase of machinery for the erection of the Fertilizer Factory at Sindri has been completed or whether it is still in the course of negotiations

(b) what part of that machinery has been purchased from the United Kingdom and what parts from the United States of America and India, and

(c) what will be the estimated cost of machinery and what amount will be paid as a commission to the British firm which negotiated the purchase for the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Orders for about 50 per cent of the plant required have already been placed

(b) Of the items so far covered, orders have been placed in the U K to the value of Rs 3.13 crores, in the U S A to the value of Rs 48.4 lakhs and in India to the value of Rs 8.4 lakhs. Tenders have been called for in India for a considerable amount of additional equipment and buildings. Tenders so far received and under consideration amount to Rs 12 lakhs and enquires outstanding to a further Rs 15 lakhs. Further substantial orders will be placed in India as information is received from the designers of the plant.

(c) On the basis of information so far available, the approximate cost of the whole machinery is expected to be about Rs 8.02 crores. A commission of two per cent is being paid to the British firm for negotiating the purchase of the plant.

Mr. Maru Subedar: Have Government received any representations to the effect that the British consulting firm which has got an office in India is discriminating against Indian manufacturers and firms and is not giving them full and adequate particulars of manufacture for this purpose of all the plant and equipment which they are capable of manufacturing?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member will be so good as to give me particulars of any case I shall certainly look into it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Honourable Member has looked into the list of articles or machinery, tools and plant, which are being brought to this country from Germany by way of reparations? If so, which of this plant and machinery will be useful for starting similar industries in any other part of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: On the information that we have at present I do not think it is possible for me to answer that question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is not useful to decentralise, and instead of spending eight crores on a single plant or machinery at one place to have small suitable machinery in various parts of India?*

The Honourable Dr John Matthai: That is a question which has been often considered. It is a matter on which it is possible to entertain different views. But from a certain point of view I think there is a good deal to be said, when you are undertaking an enterprise of this kind, for the view that production for the sake of economy should be organised on as large a scale as possible. But that is not a final view to take of the matter. In certain cases I think the circumstances may be such that decentralisation would be possible and would be desirable. But, as I said, it is a matter on which it is possible to hold different views.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it expected that this single factory at Sindh will be able to provide for the needs of the country as a whole?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai: No, Sir.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: As America is the greatest expert in the production of fertilisers, will Government kindly explain why the percentage or the value of the orders placed in the United Kingdom is higher than those in the United States of America?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is a matter regarding which a decision was taken long before I assumed responsibility, and I am not in a position to answer the question.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member make enquiries and satisfy himself that the machinery which is being purchased from the United Kingdom is not more costly than we could have purchased from the United States of America?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: On all these matters a good deal of enquiry was made and on the results of such enquiry, I presume, the Government then in power took the decisions they did.

(CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE)

203. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) when Government are calling the Civil Aviation Conference and, apart from representatives of Provinces and States, what other elements are being invited to this Conference,

(b) whether Government are aware that the most vitally concerned element is the travelling public, and whether their representatives will also be invited to participate in the deliberations of the Conference,

(c) whether the agenda of the Conference includes discussion on the question of nationalisation of Civil Aviation, and whether it will be open to the Conference to make a definite recommendation to Government to operate Civil Aviation lines themselves and not hand over this business to private companies,

(d) if the answer to (c) above be in the negative, why this Conference is being debarred from expressing an opinion on this question, and

(e) if the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, then why the Government of India have come to the conclusion that this business will be done by private companies and not by the State before the Conference have had occasion to express their views on the subject?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) The question of calling a Civil Aviation Conference is still under consideration

(b), (c), (d) and (e) Do not arise

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Government of India have decided to call a conference or the very calling of the conference is under consideration?

Sir Harold Shoobert: The very calling of the conference is under consideration. Perhaps I should explain that the late Honourable Member in the Communications Department, Syed Ali Zaheer, had decided to call a conference, but since then there has been a change in Government and there has been no time for the present Honourable Member to come to a decision upon the subject.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that Syed Ali Zaheer when he was the Honourable Member had decided to call a conference, and he announced it publicly and is it a fact that later on this decision was upset?

Sir Harold Shoobert: There is no question, Sir, of the decision having been upset. The matter is still under consideration as I stated.

VIEWS OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT ON NATIONALIZATION OF TRANSPORT SERVICES

204. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) whether the following sentence from his own statement represents the official view of the Interim Government on the subject of nationalisation, or it is his personal view only

"The Government hopes that on account of the private enterprise greater facilities, efficiency and courtesy will be available to the passengers than if the services were to be nationalised at this stage", and

(b) if it be the official view of Government as a whole, whether this observation applies to the Civil Aviation alone or also to other key industries such as Railways, Motor Transport and Posts and Telegraphs Departments?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) and (b) The sentence quoted by the Honourable Member is from a statement issued by Mr Ali Zaheer, the last Member for Communications. Since that statement was issued there has been a change in the Government. Sardar Mangal Singh is moving a resolution on 8th of November on the question of nationalisation of air services. I hope to be in a position to indicate the new Government's policy then.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My question was whether the policy stated in the announcement of Mr Ali Zaheer represents the attitude and the policy of the Government of India? To this the Honourable Member has not replied.

Sir Harold Shoobert: Sir, I am afraid the Government of India has not been in a position to let me know whether this does represent the present policy. As the Honourable Member is aware, the Member in charge of the Communications Department, after only having held charge for a few brief days, has gone away from Delhi on business of urgent public importance, and this is a matter upon which Government has to formulate a policy. Whether that policy will be the same as the policy of the last Government or whether there will be any kind of revision of the policy—at present we are unable to state.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether it represented the Government's policy when this statement was made?

Sir Harold Shoobert: Yes, Sir.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Do I take it that the policy of the Government is to artificially keep up the high fares by reason of the control which

they now exercise or will they be willing to review these fares? Air transport companies are prepared to offer passages at a much lower rate, but they are prevented from doing so because of the prices fixed by Government

Sir Harold Shobert: That is a matter which will undoubtedly receive consideration

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will it not be correct to say that until a change is made, the policy of the Government remains what was enunciated by Syed Ali Zaheer?

Mr. President: That is a matter of interpretation

CORRUPTION IN RAILWAY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

205. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) whether Government intend to take any special measures to eradicate the evil of corruption from the Railway Department employees, and if so, what those measures are, and when they will be actually put into effect,

(b) whether it is a fact that Government intend to make bribe taking and giving a cognizable offence, and

(c) whether Government intend to bring forward any special legislation for this purpose this session or the next?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) This question should really have been addressed to Honourable Home Member, but in so far as it concerns the eradication of corruption in the Railway Department it is the prior determination of Government to intensify the existing measures for checking it. In addition to use being made of the Special Police Establishment set up under the Home Department to deal with this evil, a stern warning has been issued to the staff of all ranks to the effect that very severe action will be taken against any railway servant found guilty of having received illegal gratification or of having indulged in corrupt practices. A Complaints Section has recently been set up in the Railway Board's Office and arrangements have been made to set up similar sections on railways to deal with complaints of all types including complaints of bribery and corruption.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative

(c) Government are about to introduce in the current Session of the Legislative Assembly a Bill to amend the Criminal Law in order to make it more effective in dealing with cases of bribery and corruption among public servants

INTRODUCTION OF CO-OPERATIVE FARMING IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

206. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department please state

(a) whether Government have considered any scheme for introducing an improved method of farming in the Centrally Administered Areas, and

(b) whether it is contemplated to make co-operative farming compulsory in the villages in the Centrally Administered Areas so as to serve as a model for Provincial and State Administrations to follow, whether Government intend to bring forward any legislation for this purpose this session or the next?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) It has been decided recently to take up pilot experiments in co-operative or joint farming in the Delhi Province to determine the type of farm management most suitable for adoption on a large scale under local conditions. The question of preparing a scheme for this purpose is under consideration.

A scheme to introduce mechanical cultivation in selected areas in Baluchistan is also under examination.

(b) There is no proposal at present of making co-operative farming compulsory or to enact legislation for this purpose.

† Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner having not put the question

FACILITIES FOR PASSENGERS IN NEW DESIGN THIRD AND INTER CLASS COACHES ON RAILWAYS

207. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) if Government intend to provide new designs for third and Inter class passenger coaches, if so, when,

(b) the facilities these new design coaches will provide to the passengers, and

(c) if fans will be provided in third and Inter class compartments?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) It is the Government's intention to provide new designs for all classes of passenger coaches. A number of new designs have been prepared but it is not expected that these can be put into service until early 1948. The primary need at the moment is to provide more coaches, and coaches to the pre-war design can be manufactured without initial delays and more rapidly than could coaches of the improved designs.

(b) The facilities which it is proposed to incorporate in the new III class designs include more comfortable seats, more space per passenger, more latrine accommodation, wider doors, improved lighting, water for washing etc. The financial implications of these amenities are now under examination and it is contemplated that it will be necessary to associate their introduction ultimately with increased fares.

(c) Government are considering the practicability of installing fans in III class carriages but no decision has yet been taken. It is proposed with the introduction of new coaches to abolish Inter class.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government think it advisable to provide sleeping accommodation in these new third class coaches on extra payment?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That question is under consideration at present, and I think it will be possible for Government to provide sleeping accommodation for 60 per cent of passengers.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that these new designs have been on exhibition for three years now but no attempt has been made to remodel or manufacture new coaches of these new designs?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid Sir, my Honourable friend is thinking of the exhibition coach which he once asked to see.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: No, no.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As a matter of fact, during these three years the repair programme has been exceedingly heavy and it is not possible for the workshops to turn out new coaches in large numbers while other coaches are being repaired.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know when we will have the pleasure of riding those coaches?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As soon as they are ready.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am not referring to the Exhibition coach, but in the Railway Exhibition that was held here about three years ago some new model coaches were exhibited. They were also exhibited to the members of the Standing Finance Committee. I am asking the Honourable Member why, when there is nothing new about those coaches except more accommodation, it should take such a long time and why should we have to wait until 1948?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have already explained that question at length. It is not easy to make coaches of the new designs straightaway. It will mean some delay and naturally we are trying to build coaches of pre-war design for the time being, because our requirements are so heavy. We require something like 6,000 coaches straightaway, but we cannot produce them overnight.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of abolishing the first or second class instead of the intermediate class, as that will affect the middle class more?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: If the House votes for the abolition of first and second class compartments, I shall certainly take that decision.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will this question be brought before the House for consideration?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: There will be plenty of opportunity for the House to consider this question during the budget session.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Have the new coaches got broader footboard accommodation since so many people now travel on footboards?

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Member aware that the third class coaches on the Nizam's Railways have already been provided with fans?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am fully aware of that fact.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: May I ask the Honourable Member whether Government have considered whether the air-conditioning of coaches, at the time of building, is not going to work out very much more expensive than the installing of fans?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We were talking about providing fans in third class coaches and not air-conditioned coaches which have nothing to do with the point.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: I too am talking about third class coaches.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The suggestion is very interesting and will be considered.

INCREASE OF PETROL RATION OF MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

208. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal: Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state

(a) whether Government intend to retain or withdraw the Petrol Control Order in the near future,

(b) whether they propose to increase the basic ration substantially, and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of increasing the ration for members of the Indian Legislature and the Constituent Assembly to at least one gallon per day?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) For the reasons explained in the Press Note dated the 3rd August 1946, it is not possible to withdraw petrol rationing in the near future.

(b) The basic ration for private cars has been doubled with effect from the 1st August 1946. An over-all increase of 30 per cent in the volume of petrol released for civil consumption was made during the August—October 1946 Rationing Quarter, and a still further increase of ten per cent has been made in the volume of petrol to be released during November 1946—January 1947 Rationing Quarter. The present position of supplies, storage and transport does not permit any further relaxation at present.

(c) The scale of petrol ration for members of the Indian Legislature and of the Constituent Assembly has recently been increased from half a gallon to one gallon per day when there is a sitting of the Council of State or the Legislative Assembly or the Constituent Assembly or any of their Committees.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does the Honourable Member for transport expect Members of this Legislature to sit in their chauns all the time when the Legislature is not sitting and does he not expect that some of us may have friendly visits to pay, including a visit to himself?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: All these questions have been very carefully taken into consideration and the allocation the Government has made appears to me to be perfectly just.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Is the Honourable Member aware that this short supply of petrol has rendered the supply of certain essential commodities like foodstuffs, fuel, etc. very costly? Is he prepared to relax this short ration in respect of the transport of essential commodities?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: So far as the question of the transport of essential foodstuffs or fuel is concerned, I can assure the Honourable Member that the Government will always be prepared to concede whatever is legitimate. In fact I may inform him that while the South India Railway strike was going on we sanctioned 15,000 gallons a day for the movement of essential foodstuffs, etc.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that the war is over and the demands of the military have been considerably decreased in regard to petrol, may I ask the Honourable Member whether he would consider increasing the basic petrol for civilians?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As soon as there is a further reduction of military requirements, of which I cannot speak here, I am perfectly certain that the Government will be prepared to have a further relaxation in the rationing of petrol.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is the Honourable Member aware that there are already large stores of aviation spirit now not wanted by the military in this country? And will he consider the possibility of making them available for civil use since they are now being wasted and stored for very long periods?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not aware of any very large quantities of petrol being held by the military which is surplus. I know that there is a certain amount of reserve kept both by the military and civil side which we cannot dispense with.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I did not mean petrol but aviation spirit.

President: Order, order. Next question.

MONOPOLY OF MESSRS. A. H. WHEELER & CO. FOR RUNNING BOOKSTALLS ON MOST RAILWAYS

209. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pahlwal:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that Messrs. A. H. Wheeler and Company have practically got the monopoly of running bookstalls on most of the Railway stations,

(b) the year in which the last public tenders for the contract to run those bookstalls on Railways were called, and

(c) the reasons for accepting the tender of Messrs. A. H. Wheeler and Company?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes. Messrs. A. H. Wheeler & Co. have the sole right of selling newspapers, periodicals, books etc., on the Bengal Assam, East Indian, Bengal Nagpur, Great Indian Peninsula, Bombay Baroda & Central India and Oudh Tirhut Railways.

(b) Public tenders were last called for by the East Indian Railway in 1932, the Bengal Assam Railway in 1942, and the G. I. P. Railway in 1945. The other three Railways were associated with Messrs. A. H. Wheeler & Co. during the days of Company management, and they have not yet called for tenders since coming under State management.

(c) Messrs. A. H. Wheeler & Co.'s tenders were accepted in 1942 by the Bengal Assam Railway and in 1945 by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, because they were the highest. The East Indian Railway accepted Messrs.

A H Wheeler & Co's tender in 1932 because the only other tenderer had no experience of the work

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that generally the literature which is kept by Wheeler & Co is trash literature, especially of Hindustani and other Indian languages?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: If that is so, nobody need buy it

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that they are not supplying right literature to the people, and isn't it the duty of that company to keep such literature which is useful for the public?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I suppose they know exactly what their duties are

Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Will Government inform the House whether Wheeler & Co is an Indian concern or an Anglo-Indian concern?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question. I did not know that I was going to be asked that

Mr N M Joshi: Are these stalls maintained for private or public convenience?

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali: Obviously for public convenience

Mr N. M. Joshi. If it is for public convenience, why does not the Railway Department run these stalls themselves?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali. This Department will be glad to do so provided my Honourable friend will point the way. I should like to know the gentleman who would be prepared to take it up

Mr Manu Subedar. In view of the assurance which his predecessor had given, will the Honourable the Transport Member seriously examine the position as to whether there may not be a fundamental change of the system and railways may not look to making money out of this great convenience to the public to get newspapers and also whether in due course as an experiment on one State railway, Government may not experiment whether it cannot be done departmentally

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali. It is a rather large question. At present the Government are taken up with all sorts of questions connected with transport, and thus after all is a side issue. But I agree with my Honourable friend that it is an experiment which may be tried whenever the occasion permits

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: Has the Honourable Member seen a report of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Central Advisory Committee on this issue?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have gone through the report of the Sub-Committee and I find that my answer is fully consistent with what the Sub-Committee has done or said

RAILWAY LINES DISMANTLED DURING WAR

'210. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of Railway lines that were dismantled during the period of the war?

(b) What steps have been taken to restart these lines?

(c) When does he expect the following lines to start working (i) Cawnpore-Banda Section, (ii) Akbarpur-Tanda Section, and (iii) Bijnor-Chandpur-Sial Section?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable the Railway Member to Mr K C Neogy's unstarred question No 26, on the 8th February 1946

* Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

Out of a total of 984 miles of lines dismantled during the war the restoration of approximately 412 miles is now under investigation by railways. Restoration of the remaining 572 miles was not considered necessary by railways as they were unremunerative and were not supported by the Provinces.

A statement giving details of dismantled lines, the restoration of which is under investigation is placed on the table of the House.

(c) (i) *Cawnpore-Banda Section*—The Branch line originally dismantled was Cawnpore-Khairada and not Cawnpore-Banda. It is anticipated that the line may be opened to traffic early in 1948 if there is no unforeseen delay.

(ii) *Akbarpur-Tanda Section*—The restoration of this line was not recommended by the Provincial Government. However, as a result of representations from the Public, the matter has been referred to the United Provinces Government and their reply is awaited.

(iii) *Bynour-Chandpur-Siau Section*—The traffic survey of the line is in hand. The restoration of this line will be considered after a scrutiny of the traffic survey report which is awaited.

Statement

Province	Name of line	Approximate mileage	Remarks
1. United Provinces	Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau	78	Under investigation by East Indian Railway.
2. Ditto	Bynour Chandpur-Siau	21	Ditto
3. Ditto	Utrahtia-Sultanpur Zafarabad	136	Ditto
4. Assam	Shaistaganj Habiganj	8	Under investigation by B A Railway
5. Ditto	Moranhat-Khowang	6	Ditto
6. Bengal	Amnura-Chapa-Nawabganj	10	Ditto
7. Madras	Bobbili-Salur	10	Under investigation by B N Railway
8. United Provinces	Cawnpore-Khairada	81	Final location survey sanctioned. General Manager authorised to commence preliminary works.
9. Bombay	Vasad-Kathana	27	Under investigation by B, B & C I Railway
10. Punjab	Nagrota-Jogindernagar	35	Survey has been held up pending settlement of the question of subsidy to be paid by the Punjab Government.
Total		412	

PETTY ACCOUNTS LYING IN POST OFFICES AS UNCLAIMED

[211. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state

(a) the amounts of money lying in the Post Office at the end of the financial year 1945-46 as (i) unclaimed last petty accounts in the Post Office Savings

+ Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

Bank, (ii) undelivered money orders, and (iii) realised from addressees but undelivered to the senders on account of V P articles,

(b) if separate accounts are kept of these, and

(c) what steps, if any, are taken to trace the persons concerned and deliver the money to them?

Sir Harold Shookert: (a) (i) The amount of unclaimed S B deposits in accounts with a credit of less than Rs 2 at the close of the year 1945-46 was Rs 10,11,534-13-5

(ii) and (iii) The information is not readily available. In connection with this the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given on the 28th March, 1946, to a similar question asked by him in the last session

(b) Yes

(c) As regards unpaid money orders and undelivered V P articles, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given in the last session on the 28th March, 1946, to his question No 1347

So far as Post Office Savings Bank accounts are concerned no special steps are taken to trace the depositors

INSTRUCTIONS TO PASSENGERS HOW TO BEHAVE ON RAILWAY JOURNYS

***212. *Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that Railway premises and Railway compartments are made unnecessarily dirty by passengers,

(b) Whether Government are aware that passengers keep their luggage and sit about in a manner that causes unnecessary inconvenience to others, and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of putting on walls of Railway stations and Railway compartments instructions to passengers as to how to behave, arrange their luggage, and accommodate others, etc?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) It is unfortunately correct that some members of the travelling public do not observe the degree of cleanliness and tidiness which they are expected to do

(b) It is true that some passengers, inconsiderate of the convenience and rights of their fellow-travellers, do unnecessarily obstruct compartments with their luggage and occupy more space than they are entitled to

(c) The Government have already considered this matter and have instructed railways to take action in the directions suggested. Some have already done so and others will do so shortly. I would like to suggest to my Honourable friend the desirability of men of his influence and civic sense doing something independently of the railways to educate the public in matters of this kind

RULES OF COMPULSORY INSURANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

***213. *Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state

(a) if the rule regarding compulsory insurance of motor vehicles has come into force,

(b) if he is assured that all motor vehicles have been so insured

(c) if it is a fact that different insurance companies charge different rates for insurance of motor vehicles, and

(d) if he would please consider the desirability of requiring insurance companies to have uniform rates in the matter of such compulsory insurance?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, enforcing the compulsory insurance of motor vehicles against third party risks came into force on the 1st of July 1946

(b) So far as Government are aware, the insurance of vehicles registered in British India is now fully enforced. Pending introduction, however, of a scheme of reciprocity with those States who wish to enact parallel legislation, it has been necessary to ask Provincial Governments not to enforce the insurance of vehicles registered in the territory of those States when brought into British India

(c) Yes, with the exception of insurance companies which are members of Tariff Associations and are bound by the rates fixed by these Associations

(d) Government will consider the suggestion in the light of the experience gained of the working of the Compulsory Insurance Scheme. It should be remembered, however, in this connection that it is open to the owner of a motor vehicle to insure it with any company he may select

GRANT OF NEWSPRINT QUOTA TO INDIAN AND ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS

(214. *Shri Sri Prakasa. Will the Honorable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the present position of newsprint in India,

(b) if there is any possibility of further increase in the quota given to the various papers, and

(c) the principles, if any, that are followed in the grant of quota to the different categories of newspapers, namely, English and Indian language papers representing different political opinions.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai. (a) The newsprint position has been more difficult during the last six months than it was at any time since July, 1944. However, there is good reason to anticipate that the position will improve towards the end of the year. Stocks at the end of September were about 11,000 tons as against 14,000 tons in January and an average of 12,000 to 13,000 tons during 1945. When the Newsprint Delegation left India, it looked as though India would not receive more than 17,000 tons during the year as against 22,000 tons in 1945 and an average of 24,000 tons for the years 1940 to 1945. As a result of the Delegation's visits, however, India has been promised a total of 32,500 tons for this year of which roughly 17,000 tons have so far been received. It is expected that between 8,000 and 10,000 tons will be received before the end of December and that the balance of the 32,500 tons will be carried forward into the next year. The Government of India have no information at present as to how much may be expected during 1947. But there is reason to hope that the figure will not be less than 32,500 tons.

(b) Newspapers were given an increase of 25 per cent. over the basic quota in September 1945. This increase had to be withdrawn on the 1st of May 1946. If the reduction was restored on the 1st of August and half on the 1st of October. The consumption at present is at the rate of 2,500 tons per mensem or 30,000 tons for 12 months. There is, therefore, no possibility of any increase in the basic quotas for perhaps another six months.

(c) Quotas of papers which were published in March 1943 are based on the average consumption during the second half of 1942 modified with reference to the consumption in the year 1940. New newspapers have been allowed to give scope for expression to political points of view not adequately represented in the existing Press or where they will be brought out in areas where there are no other daily newspapers at present. Quotas for such papers are generally settled taking into account the supply position and the minimum circulation required for each case.

* Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OVER THE GANGES IN PATNA DISTRICT

215. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the decision of Government to construct a bridge over the Ganges in the district of Patna?

(b) Where will be its location?

(c) What would be the approximate cost of its construction?

(d) When will the work of construction start?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) No decision has been taken.

(b) Nothing has been finally settled. Purely from an engineering point of view, the Mokameh Site is preferred. At the request of the Bihar Government, estimates of construction and maintenance costs of a bridge also at Patna are being prepared.

(c) The cost of construction of the bridge would be (i) Mokameh Site—about Rs. 4 crores, (ii) Patna Site—about Rs. 5 crores. Recurring costs at Patna are however likely to be much higher than those at Mokameh. These figures cannot, however, be accepted as firm estimates.

(d) It is not possible to reply to this part of the question at present.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: When will this question be finally decided?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The question is still under consideration and the plans are being examined and as soon as the alternative plans have been prepared, Government will take a decision one way or the other.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What is the approximate time the Government is likely to take in considering this question?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: These are engineering works. It is very difficult for me to say how long it will take. It all depends on the time the engineers will take to survey the situation afresh and prepare their new plans.

Mr. Madandhari Singh: In view of the fact that Patna is the capital town of Bihar it is the demand of the people of the province that the bridge over the Ganges should be constructed at Patna. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to approve the proposal of the construction of the bridge over the Ganges at Patna?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: In my reply to part (b) of the question I have already stated that the Bihar Government has requested us to reconsider the question and we are trying to do it.

PROJECTS FOR OPENING NEW LINES IN BIHAR

216. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether any new project for opening new lines in Bihar will be taken up during this financial year?

(b) If so, what are the details of the new project?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The development plans of the E. I. and O. T. Railways include schemes for opening lines on five routes. Estimates for the survey of four of the routes have been received and sanctioned and survey reports in respect of two of these are expected to be received shortly, but it is not expected that they can be scrutinised and work commenced before the end of the current financial year.

(b) Details of the projects contemplated are given in a statement which has been laid on the table.

Statement of projects for opening new railway lines in Bihar

Name of route	Mileage	Name of the Railway	Stage reached
(i) Berhagaoon-Hazaribagh-Hazari- bagh Road-Giridih	225	E I	Survey estimate sanctioned Report not expected before August 1947
(ii) Gaya - Sherghati - Chatra- Ranchi	110	E I	Ditto
(iii) Siamarhi Sonbarsa	30	O T	Survey report expected to be received very shortly
(iv) Murl Ganj-Madhepura	18	O T	Ditto
(v) Chakia-Alaahia-Sidhwaha	27	O T	Survey estimate awaited from the O T. Railway

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What are the new projects? May I know their names?

(The Honourable Mr M Asaf Ali then read out the statement laid on the table)

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Have the alignments of the proposed railways been settled?

The Honourable Mr M Asaf Ali: I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

UTILIZATION OF DETERIORATED FOOD Lying WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

217. *Mr. Vadial Lalubhai: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that there are considerable stocks of food unfit for human consumption lying with various Provincial Governments which are from the allocations of foodstuffs made by the Central Government?

(b) If so, what is the extent thereof?

(c) What is the method of their disposal? Have Government thought of any scheme whereby the same can be put to the best possible use?

(d) Is it the policy of Government to give this deteriorated foodstuff for the production of starch to various starch factories at reasonable rates? If so, how much have Government distributed in this manner, and how much quantity still remains?

Mr B. R. Sen: (a) and (b) From time to time, from the stocks of foodgrains held by Provincial/State Governments, certain quantities do become unfit for human consumption due to deterioration. Statistics of deteriorated foodgrains at present with Provincial/State Governments are not available.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have asked Provincial/State Governments to offer stocks of deteriorated foodgrains and products unfit for human consumption and cattle feed to the Textile Commissioner and to the Starch Factories. They have also been asked to fix a ceiling price above which stocks will not be sold and it has been suggested that if a Starch Factory offers the ceiling price, the stocks should be sold to the Starch Factory in preference to other competitors. Information so far available, shows that a total quantity of about 5,730 tons of deteriorated foodgrains has been offered by the Provincial/State Governments to the Textile Commissioner since April last for distribution to Starch Factories.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are the Government aware that among the reasons there is one, namely, not fixing the price by the Provincial Governments in time for these various foodstuffs allocated and the grains were not released to the public for sale?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have already replied that a ceiling price has been fixed and the foodgrains are being offered to the starch factories which offer the ceiling price

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The deterioration of the foodgrains to the extent of 700,000 tons is due to a large extent to their not being released immediately after they were received in the provinces. For instance from the Central Provinces pulses are being sent to Madras but the inter-provincial arrangement regarding price is not fixed and it takes nearly four to six months. There is no liaison officer. Is it not due to this fact that much of this deterioration goes on? Will the Central and Provincial Governments set up a common department to fix up the prices immediately the grains arrive so that they may be released very soon?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not think that as a general statement what the Honourable Member says is correct. It may be that in particular cases the deterioration was due to causes such as mentioned.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: What is the quantity of the deteriorated stuff which has been thrown away and what is the quantity that has been utilised?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not in a position to answer that question and I will explain why. It is not possible to say exactly what quantities have been wasted in this way nor what quantities have been saved by the protective measures that we have adopted.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member say what are the quantities saved, if he cannot say what quantity has been wasted?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not in a position to answer this question.

Sri V. C. Vellingur Gounder: Considering the large amount of deterioration of grains going on in all parts of the country, may I know whether they can fix up a certain date within which the grains or the pulses should be used whenever they are transported from the area of production to the area of consumption?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It is not possible to fix dates.

Sri V. C. Vellingur Gounder: Then how this deterioration is going to be prevented?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have already answered that question.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Have the Government been able to distribute all the deteriorated foodgrains to the starch industry?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not think so.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: What are the special difficulties in the way of the Honourable Member getting correct statistics? Is it because the Provincial Governments refuse to give any information or is it because that the Government of India do not want it?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Mr. Lawson has moved an amendment to my Food Motion and in replying to that I shall make the position clear.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: If my question

Mr. President: It is a question asking for information and the Honourable Member is going to give that information later.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: What about the question I asked? I stand up to my privilege. If my question was foolish you could have ruled it out, but if I have asked a question I want an answer now. I do not want to wait till the debate begins.

Mr. President: He has already given the answer—he said it would take time, and it is not fair to other questioners that time should be taken up in giving a long explanation over one question alone.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I asked one point only, whether it was the laziness of the Government of India or the refusal of the Provincial Governments to give statistical information.

Mr. President: It appears from what the Honourable Member has said that the answer cannot be categorical, that he wants to explain somewhat in detail, and that will take some time

PROFITS TO IMPORTERS ON IMPORTS OF DYESTUFFS

218. *Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please lay on the table of the House the quantities of yearly imports of dyestuffs with its total value from the year 1937 to 1946, year by year?

(b) Is it a fact that Government allows under the Control Scheme 15 per cent profit on dyestuffs to importers and 65 per cent of margin to dealers?

(c) Are Government aware that this total profit of 80 per cent is found to be too high to the detriment of the consumer, in the shape of high prices for cloth which have to be fixed according to the cost of manufacture on the basis being the prices of several kinds of colours, chemicals, stores, etc.?

(d) In view of the imports being on a fairly large scale and in view of there being control on the production of dyed and printed cloth, do Government propose to remove control on the import of dyestuffs and its price regulation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai. (a) A statement is placed on the table showing the value of the yearly imports during the period desired. Complete statistics regarding the tonnage involved during this period are not available, but on an average Rs one crore represents slightly over 1,000 tons of dyestuffs

(b) No, Sir. 15 per cent over landed cost is allowed to 'A' class importers, who have no selling licences. B' class importers, who are distributors of dyestuffs with a fairly large organisation, and who have selling licences, are allowed a margin of 50 per cent over landed cost. Other dealers such as repackers and retailers procure their supplies from B' class dealers and are allowed to sell to small consumers at a margin of 15 per cent over their purchase price. It has to be remembered that out of their margin dealers have to meet expenses on account of their distribution, organisation, technical personnel, laboratories, mixing, repacking, etc.

(c) The Honourable Member will see from what I have said that the final price, even for the smallest consumer, can in no case be more than 72½ per cent over the landed cost. In actual practice however, nearly all manufacturers of cloth get their requirements of dyes at well below these maximum prices. Owing to the small percentage of dyes involved in the manufacture of cloth, the price of cloth is not materially affected by the internal price of dyestuffs.

(d) Licences for imports of dyestuffs are issued freely, and the only control now maintained is on their price. The present level of imports is only about 50 per cent of India's requirements, and therefore Government do not consider that price control can be removed yet.

Year	Statement	
	Value Rs.	
1937-38	.	3,94,05,915
1938-39	. . .	3,14,16,166
1939-40		3,60,78,087
1940-41	.	5,30,14,289
1941-42		5,77,64,539
1942-43	. . .	4,63,89,768
1943-44	. . .	7,72,19,409
1944-45	7,08,95,425
1945-46	. . .	8,40,00,749

(for 10 months from
1st April 1945 to
31st January
1946).

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that even the biggest users have to buy in the retail market at the highest price?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think it is conceivable that that happens in view of the great scarcity of this particular article

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: If it is a fact that only 50 per cent of the requirements are being imported, would it not be better to reduce dyeing by 50 per cent and remove the control on both import and prices?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter which should be taken up in consultation with the industry because it involves questions not merely of marketing but of technique

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it not a fact that recently the dyeing percentage has been reduced by the industry?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is correct

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Could it not be further reduced?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In regard to various stores of this kind, I think from time to time we have reduced the percentage of materials to be used per unit of production

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if during the war any dyestuff manufacturing industry has been started in this country?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It has not been started, but I understand proposals are being considered

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what steps the Government of India are taking to assist this industry, in view of the shortage even now and nearly 172 per cent has to be paid for the dyestuffs?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I expect within a reasonable time the Indian dyestuff industry would be started, but the Honourable Member will realise that before we are in a position to produce in this country anything like the whole range of dyestuffs required here, we should have to set up a fairly elaborate organisation, which is going to take some time

USE OF DETERIORATED FOODSTUFFS AS SIZING FLOUR

219. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if Government are aware that big quantities of deteriorated foodstuff are lying all over the country which can be turned into sizing flour?

(b) Are Government aware that many Indian starch factories are manufacturing sizing flour for textile mills out of the deteriorated foodstuffs unfit for human consumption?

(c) If so, do Government propose to see that stocks of such sizing flour are first distributed to textile mills in preference to imported foreign starch under their control scheme in view of the necessity to protect the Indian starch industry?

(d) If so, are Government aware that there are considerable stocks lying with various starch factories which remain undistributed owing to the free imports of foreign starch?

(e) Have Government come across any unwillingness on the part of the Textile Industry to accept sizing flour produced from this deteriorated foodstuff?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Government do not think that the quantities of starch imported into the country are such that there should be any difficulty for a manufacturer of sizing flour in this country to dispose of any sizing material which is suitable for the use of textile mills. There appears to be some objection among textile mills for technical reasons to the general use of sizing material manufactured out of deteriorated foodstuffs. Government will however investigate the possibility of encouraging the use of such sizing material

(d) Government are aware that there are stocks of sizing flour lying unsold with various starch factories but are not sure that this is a consequence of the free imports of starch and sizing material. The quantities of foreign starch actually arriving in the country are believed to be well below the requirements of the Indian mills.

(e) Not all sizing flour produced from deteriorated foodstuffs provides sizing material of good quality. It is understandable that mills should be unwilling to purchase material of doubtful quality, but whether the unwillingness extends to good quality material produced out of deteriorated foodstuffs is a matter about which Government have no definite information. But as promised against item (c) above, Government propose to examine this question further.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the foreign starch is manufactured out of foodgrains or whether it is made of chemicals?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as I know, it is largely made of foodgrains.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How then do other countries which are suffering for want of foodgrains, make this starch out of foodgrains?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would ask the Honourable Member to address that question to the countries concerned.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is it not a fact that large quantities of sago flour—thousands of tons—have been imported and dumped into this country and that a great majority of the mills are full of this stuff, so that they do not require the Indian stuff any more for some time to come?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They are imported, but I believe they are imported in quantities which still are well below the quantities required by Indian mills.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is it not a fact that there are huge quantities of this sago flour which have been imported from foreign countries and which are lying in the mills and so they do not require any more of this stuff for the time being?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The information of Government is that taking all the materials which are now in stock in the country, the position is still one of scarcity.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will Government take action if it is proved to them that there is a burdensome stock of sago flour and that that is the reason why the Indian stuff is not taken by the mills with subsequent burdensome stocks with starch factories?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should certainly like to get more information if the Honourable Member can give it to me and will take action.

CONTROLS UNDER THE INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

220. *Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state how many and which controls under the Industries and Supplies Department have ceased to be in force after the end of the War?

(b) How many and which controls still remain in force?

(c) Do Government propose to reduce the existing controls to a minimum in the immediate future?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b) A statement showing the Controls which ceased to be in force with effect from or prior to the 1st October 1946 and those which continue to be in force is placed on the table.

(c) The existing controls are the minimum which Government consider to be necessary in the public interest. An Inter-departmental Committee has been set up to scrutinise the Controls constantly with a view to revising or removing them in the light of changing circumstances.

Statement

Controls which have been withdrawn prior to 30th September 1946 or which lapsed on the date	Controls which continue to be in force after 30th September, 1946
(a)	(b)
<p>Machine Tool Control Order 1941</p> <p>The Factories Control Production Order 1942</p> <p>The Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance 1943</p> <p>Ferro-Alloys Control Order 1943</p> <p>The Cinematograph Film (Footage) Control, 1945</p> <p>The Control of Imported Engineer Stores Order 1943</p> <p>Non Ferrous Metals Control Order, 1945</p> <p>Brass and Copper (Control) Order 1945</p> <p>Aluminium Utensils (Control) Order 1945</p> <p>The Goods (Control over Movement) Order, 1945.</p> <p>The Drugs Control Order 1945</p> <p>Bleaching Powder and Chloride (Control Order 1945)</p> <p>Rubber Control and Production Order, 1946</p> <p>Control over distribution of cement</p> <p>Control over distribution of Wattle Bark and Wattle Extract</p> <p>Control over transport of timber</p> <p>Control over prices of cycle tyres and tubes</p> <p>Control over prices of Motor Car and Motor Cycle Tyres and Tubes and Giant Tyres and Tubes</p> <p>Undertakings (Charges & Accounts) Order</p> <p>Jute Industry Essential Stores Control Order</p> <p>Starch Control Order</p> <p>Textile Industry (Misc Articles) Control Order</p> <p>Cotton Textiles (Dyes and Chemicals) Control Order</p> <p>Hydro Sulphate of Soda Control Order</p> <p>Wireless Sets Control Order</p> <p>Foreign Cotton Control Order 1945</p> <p>Indian Cotton Control Order 1945</p> <p>Cotton Movement Control Order 1945</p> <p>Cotton (Forward Contracts and Option Prohibition), Order 1945,</p>	<p>Paper Control (Production) Order, 1946</p> <p>Paper Control (Economy) Order 1945</p> <p>Paper Price Control Order, 1945</p> <p>Paper (Price of Imported Paper) Control Order, 1944</p> <p>Paper Control (Process of board) Order 1944</p> <p>Paper Control (Distribution) Order 1944.</p> <p>Newspaper Control Order, 1945</p> <p>Newsprint Control Order, 1941</p> <p>An Order issued under the Defence of India Rules empowering Government to declare the percentage of Indian paper Mill production for non Government Civil consumption.</p> <p>Iron and Steel (Scrap control) Order including Price Control, 1943.</p> <p>Iron and Steel (Control of Production and Distribution) Order (including Price Control) 1941.</p> <p>Colliery Control Order (including Price Control), 1945</p> <p>The Coal Production Fund Ordinance 1941</p> <p>*Factories (Control of Dismantling) Order 1945</p> <p>Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order 1945</p> <p>Cotton Cloth (Control of Printing) Order 1945</p> <p>Cotton Textiles (Control of Movement) Order, 1946</p> <p>Cotton Cloth & Yarn (Transmission by post) Prohibition Order 1946</p> <p>Cotton Textiles Fund Ordinance, 1944</p> <p>Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Forward Contracts Prohibition) Order, 1945</p> <p>Indian Woollen Goods (Control) Order, 1945</p> <p>Textiles, Industry (Control of Production) Order, 1945</p> <p>Bengal Textiles Association Ordinance, 1945</p> <p>†Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1944</p> <p>The Cotton Textiles (Raw Materials & Stores, Order, 1946.</p> <p>The Cotton Textiles (Sizing & Filing) Control Order, 1945</p>

* For factories engaged in the manufacture of Cotton Textile goods or in the ginning or pressing of cotton

† This order is in force only in regard to imported Woollen Goods

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Is the Honourable Member aware that under the provisions of the Paper Control Order now in force, no publisher who has begun publications after 1942 can get any permission from Government to publish any books?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will inquire.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: In view of the fact that what is being guaranteed to the publishers is simply registration as publishers and not any quota of paper, as such, is the Honourable Member prepared to reconsider that order and to keep the field open to all publishers irrespective of whether they published books prior to 1942 or not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will look into the matter.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: The present newspaper control is effective in creating a monopoly for those newspapers which are already in existence and therefore will the Honourable Member reconsider the position with regard to all newspapers generally, which the Government considers are capable of doing their business efficiently?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There was a question on the order paper regarding newsprint and I meant to say in reply to that that the position of newsprint as the result of the delegation which visited foreign countries recently is going to be considerably better in the near future. At present I think the average quantity which is available in the country, I am speaking off the record, is under 20,000 tons but I expect as the result of the successful efforts made by this delegation we should be in a position to receive at least 30,000 tons during next year and the position to that extent would be easier.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member examine the order of priorities which is fixed under some of these controls based on the position of the particular parties during the war or based on war service or so called A R P and other services and if the controls must continue will Government re-examine the position of priorities or the basis on which such priorities are based? I am not referring merely to paper. I am referring to all controls.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That opens up a very large issue. In view of the interest which is felt by Honourable Members in the general subject of controls, in connection with a Bill which I am going to introduce later, during the consideration stage regarding the continuance of controls over certain essential commodities, I expect it will be possible for Honourable Members to have an opportunity of expressing their views on the general problem.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member call a meeting of the Advisory Committee of his Department and place the issues before them and seek their advice on this subject?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Will the Honourable Member tell the House the position of steel and steel control and what effect the latter has had on the supply of steel?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The position with regard to steel control is that last April we decided to remove the control as regards the purchase of steel and the result was not an improvement in the situation but a definite deterioration and in consequence of that it was considered necessary by Government to re-institute the system of licences for the purchase of steel. The situation with regard to production in this country today is in my opinion grave, partly on account of the coal shortage and partly on account of labour troubles and the whole question therefore is under the active consideration of Government. Meanwhile we are issuing certain rules regarding the lines on which further control is to be maintained.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the discussion on the general subject of controls and de-controlling, will the Honourable Member circulate to the Members the statement which he has laid on the table today, as well as other documents regarding this subject?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir.

REVISION OF CONVENTION re SEPARATION OF RAILWAY FINANCE FROM GENERAL FINANCE

†221. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state what action is proposed to be taken for the purpose of undertaking an examination of the question of revision of the Convention on which the separation of Railway Finance from General Finances has been based?

(b) What progress has been made in the collection of all essential data, particularly with reference to the lives of the assets, including obsolescence, and the consequent normal rate of contribution to the Depreciation Fund etc., to enable a comprehensive examination of the problem?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) The Railway Convention Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly in March 1943, considered that the revision of the Convention depends upon the quantum of surplus falling due for division, and involves

(i) a re-examination of the annual contribution to the Depreciation Fund, necessitating a comprehensive enquiry into the lives of assets including their obsolescence, the effect of the level of prices on the Fund, etc., and

(ii) an examination of other closely connected questions, such as provision for amortisation of capital, Betterment Fund, the question of a fixed contribution to General Revenues, the correct method of calculating interest on capital-at-charge and the allocation of replacement cost of an asset,

As announced in a Press Note, dated 26th April, 1946, the Railway Board had embarked on a detailed investigation of the above problems. A Betterment Fund was instituted with effect from 1st April, 1946, and the consequential changes in allocation rules have been made. The comprehensive enquiry into the lives of assets has been practically completed and the working out of the normal rate of contribution to the Fund, on the revised basis, has been taken in hand. The effect of the level of prices on the Depreciation Fund requires no special investigation but it will have to be considered whether the existing rules of charging replacement costs to the Fund can be regarded as sound when the appropriation is made on the basis of original cost. Government hope to be able to formulate their decisions in time to be able to ask the House in the Budget Session, 1947 to appoint a Committee to examine the whole question of the permanent revision of the Convention.

PROPOSED ELECTRIFICATIONS OF EAST INDIAN, BENGAL NAGPUR AND BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAYS

†222. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state what progress has been made in the consideration of the question of electrification of certain sections of the East Indian, Bengal Nagpur, and Bengal Assam Railways?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Railway Department have under consideration the electrification of the following sections of the three railways mentioned in the question

Railway	Suburban	Main line
(i) B A . . .	Sealdah-Ranaghat-Krishnagar City	... ..
„ . . .	Sealdah-Budge Budge and allied sections	..
(ii) B N. . .	...	Howrah-Tatanagar.
(iii) E. I. . .	.	Burdwan-Gaya Moghalsera.
„ . . .	Howrah-Bandel-Burdwan . .	.....
„ . . .	Howrah-Burdwan chord	. .

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

Of the two proposals for main line electrification the E I Railway's preliminary report on the Burdwan-Moghalsera scheme is being referred immediately to the Consulting Electrical Engineers to Government for their expert opinion. In the other case, namely, the Howrah-Tatanagar scheme, the B N Railway has been asked to submit a preliminary report.

In the case of suburban electrification schemes railways have already carried out preliminary investigations, but before proceeding further with them it is proposed to consult the Government of Bengal regarding the setting up of a Terminal Facilities Committee to go into the whole matter of railway facilities in and around Calcutta. The Committee's terms of reference would include the question of what additional suburban railways would be necessary, what portion of the suburban services of the three railways should be electrified and what facilities are required for the reception and quick dispersal of suburban passengers.

REVISION OF RATING POLICY OF RAILWAYS

†223. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether the question of a revision of the rating policy of the Railways, has been initiated? If so what progress has been made in this matter?

(b) Have Government come to any tentative conclusions regarding the broad lines on which a revision of the rating policy of the Railways should follow, apart from the question of revising the rates structure?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes. Investigation into the possibility of simplifying the rates structure was commenced in 1944 and is proceeding. The subject is of considerable complexity and involves the examination of many different and difficult problems. The introduction of telescopic "class" rates on a continuous mileage basis without unduly affecting revenue is now considered to be a practical proposition and the investigation is proceeding towards this end. A factual test is to be made with one class of traffic early next year. A Committee of Rates Experts has been appointed to carry out the work of revision of the rates structure and make recommendations to the Railway Board. Before finalising the proposed new scales of rates commercial interests will be consulted.

(b) No conclusions, other than those relating to the revision of the rating structure, have as yet been reached by Government. There are various aspects of this matter which are under examination by the investigating officer, assisted by the Committee of Rates Experts.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROAD ROLLER COMMISSION

†224. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to refer to starred question Nos 1207 and 1208, dated the 25th March, 1946, regarding Road Rollers indentured from United Kingdom, and state whether the recommendations of the Road Roller Commission have been communicated to Indian Industrialists and manufacturers? Will the Honourable Member please lay a copy of the Report in the Library of this House?

(b) What has been the result of the consultation with Indian industrialists and manufacturers stated to have been made in this matter [*vide* clause (c) of the answer to starred question No 1208]?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place on the table of the House a statement showing the number of Road Rollers already ordered from different countries abroad, indicating the cost thereof? In what period will these Rollers be actually available in India?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please place on the table of the House a statement showing the number of Road Rollers already acquired from military surplus stores in India and the cost involved, as also the number of Rollers, or their component parts, ordered from Indian industrialists and manufacturers, and the total cost involved?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The object of the Road Roller Mission was to advise Government as to the facilities available in the Ordnance Factories for the manufacture of Road Rollers. On the basis of these recommendations the Government of India negotiated with Indian firms possessing capacity for the production of such component parts as could be made in India. As regards the publication of the report, I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (c) of his question No 1208, on the 25th March 1946. A copy of the Press Note placed on the table of the House.

(b) Orders have been placed with the Tata Engineering and Locomotive Manufacturing Co., for manufacturing 1000 Steam Rollers and with Jessop and Co., for 500 Diesel Rollers in co-operation with manufacturers in the United Kingdom and the Indian Ordnance Factories.

(c) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(d) No Road Rollers have been declared surplus by the Military Authorities. According to information at present available 56 Road Rollers have been taken over from American surpluses. A trial order for 24 Road Rollers to be manufactured entirely in India at a cost of Rs. 5,28,000 has been placed with Messrs. Cooper Engineering Co., Ltd. The cost of component parts for the 1500 Road Rollers mentioned in reply to parts (a) and (b) is not yet known as the final details of the components which will have to be imported have not been fully worked out.

PRESS NOTE

ROAD ROLLERS FOR INDIA

ORDNANCE FACTORIES AND INDIAN FIRMS TO PRODUCE

TECHNICAL INFORMATION FROM U K

One thousand Steam and five hundred Diesel Road Rollers of the British type will be manufactured by Indian Ordnance factories and certain Indian firms in co-operation with manufacturers in the U K, as a result of the recommendations of the Road Rollers Mission which visited India early this year and the negotiations carried on by the Government of India with the representatives of British concerns.

It is hoped that this will go a long way to meet the large demand for Road Rollers in connection with the Road Development Schemes of the Central and Provincial Governments and Indian States and pave the way for the eventual manufacture of complete units of road making machinery in the country.

The entire scheme will cost about Rs. 4,40,00,000, nearly 40 per cent of which will be incurred in the Indian Ordnance factories and the rest in Indian and associated British concerns. Deliveries are expected to start early next year for completion within two years.

The terms agreed upon provide *inter alia* that jigs, patterns, drawings, designs, and other technical information will be made available in the country and that such technical personnel and co-ordinating cells as may be required by the Ordnance Factories and other firms concerned will be provided by the contracting British firms.

The arrangements are that complete boiler and gear units in respect of steam rollers and engines and gear units in respect of Diesel rollers will be imported from the U K and the rest manufactured in the Ordnance factories and two Indian firms. Erection, assembly, commissioning and servicing will be done entirely in India.

A trial order for twelve Diesel road rollers is proposed to be placed on an Indian firm. Efforts are also being continued to locate capacity which will enable the manufacture of complete road rollers in India.

The visit of the Road Rollers Mission, consisting of the representatives of the British Road Roller Industry selected by the India Office on the advice of the Board of Trade and the Federation of Contractors' Plant, was arranged by the Government of India in consultation with the Secretary of State. The Mission visited the various Indian Ordnance factories and reported to the Government on the possibility of utilization of the plant, tools, personnel and the general facilities available. The Mission also discussed with the Government of India the terms on which the manufacturers in the U K would be prepared to co-operate with the scheme. Subsequently the present agreement was arrived at between the Government of India and the manufacturers in the U K.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES & SUPPLIES;

* New Delhi, August 1, 1946

Statement showing contracts placed for the Supply of Road Rollers from different countries a broad

S No	Suppliers	Store	Quantity	Price per each	Total cost	Delivery forecast as per the contract
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	M/s. Malcolm Moore Ltd. Australia.	Malcolm Moore 5/8 Ton. (Ballast Tray fitted to carry Cast Iron weights) three-wheel fitted with Fordson engine.	Nos 225	Rs 21,115 (F O R destination in India)	Rs 47,50,875	10 Nos by 18-6-46 15 " " 30-6-46 20 " " 31-7-46 25 " " 31-8-46 and thereafter 25 Nos or more in each succeeding month till the contract is completed
	Do	Malcolm Moore 8-3/4/9-3/4 Ton (Ballast Tray fitted to carry Cast Iron weights four wheel fitted with Fordson engine	25	Rs 26,175	6,54,375	
2	M/s William Jacks Co., Ltd Calcutta,	Austin-Western 'Autoerat' 10 ton Roll-A Plane Diesel road roller.	8	Rs 29,000 (F O R port of entry in India)	2,32,000	28 Nos 10 Ton Road Rollers by Nov /Dec 46. 38 Nos 10 Ton Road
	Do	Austin-Western 10 ton 'Autoerat' Three wheel Diesel road roller	58	Rs 23,300 (F O R port of entry in India)	13,51,400	Rollers by March 47 16 Nos Tandem 5/8 Road Rollers by March 47
	Do.	Austin-Western Tandem 5/8 ton Diesel Road rollers	43	Rs 19,350	8,32,050	37 Nos Tandem 5/8 Road roller by June 1947

3	M/s. Simpson & Co. Madras.	Gallon Chief 10 ton Diesel engine.	20	Rs 21,125 (F O R Madras)	4,22,600	Deliveries in India to commence in Sept. 1946 at the rate of at least 4 Road rollers per month till completion. Attempts should, however, be made to expedite production and shipment to greatest extent possible
4	Do.	Gallon Tandem 5/8 ton Diesel engine	30	Rs 16,320	4,89,900	
4	M/s. Marshall Sons, & Co., Ltd., England. (In association with Ordnance Factories & Indian Industries).	Marshall Steam road rollers 8 tons.	1000	Estimated approx Rs 27,500 each	2,75,00,000	Every effort are to be made to start delivery commencing in July 1947 and delivery is completed by 31st Dec. 1948
5	M/s. Aveling Barford Grentham (in association with Ordnance Factories & Indian Industries).	Diesel Oil Engine road rollers	500	Estimated approx. price Rs 25,000 each	1,25,00,000	Ditto
6	M/s. Jack Olding & Co Ltd. Hasfield.	Buffalo Spring field 6 tons Diesel road rollers	60	Rs 8,500 approx F O B London	5,10,000	Ex stocks in U K
7	M/s. Marshall Sons & Co. England. (Order placed thro' D. G. ISI, Blackpool).	Diesel road rollers	100	Rs 20,900	20,90,000	At the rate of 10 nos per month
8	M/s. Aveling Barford England (Order placed through DG. ISD Blackpool).	Steam road rollers	100	Rs. 20,600 approx (F O B England)	20,60,000	Diesel road rollers 6 nos March 1947 followed by 10 Nos per mensem beginning May 1947 Steam road rollers 6 Nos per week beginning Jan. 1947
	Do.	Diesel road rollers	50	Rs 20,130 approx	16,500	

DETERIORATION OF FOOD IN BENGAL

225. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal**: Will the Secretary, Food Department be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the quick deterioration of the food situation in some of the districts of Bengal,

(b) the reasons for such deterioration, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for bringing about relief in the situation?

Mr. B. E. Sen: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to part (b) of unstarred question No 10, by Mr K C Neogy in the Legislative Assembly on the 28th October, 1946

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the extent to which during the last week the distribution of food suffered on account of transport problems in East Bengal?

Mr. B. E. Sen: I cannot give you the exact information but the Government of Bengal are trying their best to rush supplies to East Bengal not only by the normal means of transport but also by air transport

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: In order to prevent deterioration of food in East Bengal, will the Honourable Member state whether he will send some quantities of food to Assam for feeding the Noakhali refugees?

Mr. B. E. Sen: Assam is a surplus province and there has been no demand from the Assam Government for supplies from the Centre in order to feed the few refugees who have gone there

MANUFACTURE OF POWER ALCOHOL IN BENGAL

226. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal**: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) in how many places in Bengal are there arrangements for manufacture of power alcohol,

(b) how such power alcohol is put on the market and the uses to which it is put to,

(c) whether Government have in immediate contemplation expansion of facilities for manufacturing more power alcohol in Bengal, and

(d) what steps are being taken for reducing the price?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) As far as Government are aware there is no distillery in Bengal producing power alcohol

(b) Does not arise

(c) The Panel on Sugar, Alcohol and Food Yeast set up by the late Planning and Development Department has suggested the establishment of a distillery at Darsana for the production of power alcohol. The report is now under the consideration of Government

(d) At present control over prices of power alcohol is a provincial responsibility

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is the Honourable Member aware that some sugar factories of Bengal which are owned and managed by Indians made applications for permission to produce power alcohol but they have been refused?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have no information but I should like to have the position examined

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is power alcohol being produced at any other places?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I believe so. I cannot give particulars off hand

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

R M S. REST HOUSE IN CHANDNI CHOWK, DELHI

227. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether it is a fact that the R M S. officials in the R M S Rest House in Chandni Chowk, Delhi, are quite comfortable there?

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the negative do Government propose to take steps to improve the lot of the officials in connection therewith?

Sir Harold Shoovert: (a) It is a fact that owing to neglect of maintenance by the owner of the building the officials concerned are not as comfortable as Government would wish them to be

(b) The matter is already engaging the attention of Government

RETIREMENT OF OFFICIALS WITH 25 YEARS' SERVICE ON FULL PENSION

228. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether in view of unemployment Government propose to consider the question of retirement of all those officials who have put in 25 years of service with full pension benefits?

Sir Harold Shoovert: The questions (Nos 228 and 229) should have been addressed to the Honourable the Home Member. They have accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 13th November 1940 when it will be answered by the Honourable the Home Member

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In case there is any in stake when questions are being addressed, will the Department concerned return them to the Assembly Department and ask them to make the necessary correction and send it to the proper department? After all it has been printed on the Order Paper and may I know why the Honourable Member cannot reply to it?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Last session you gave a ruling that if a question is wrongly addressed it should be sent to the department concerned, instead of saying that the question should have been addressed to such and such a department

Mr. President: It is already being done. When the lists are printed, there is no other alternative but to inform the House that the question has been transferred to such and such a department

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: The answer will not be given this session

Mr. President: The Answer will be given on the 13th November by the Honourable the Home Member

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member how he has tried to carry out this principle that persons who are superannuated are not entertained or retired? I am asking about the Honourable Member's own department. He can reply to the question so far as his department is concerned

Sir Harold Shoovert: I am quite prepared to answer that question. The reason why this question was transferred to the Honourable the Home Member is that the matter is one of general policy, which must be laid down by the Government of India for all Departments. We cannot have unilateral action on the part of one Department. My Honourable friend has now asked what steps have been taken to stop re-employment of men who have been superannuated. The answer is that normally men in the gazetted ranks above the age of 55 are not being kept in employment. Men in the non-gazetted ranks, who were employed before 1938, are, according to the rule, able to be retained in employment, if they remain mentally and physically efficient, up to the age of 60. That is the position in our Department which is being followed

Mr. President: No more supplementary questions as the question time is now over

CANCELLATION OF EXTENSION GRANTED TO OFFICIALS

†229. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether extension granted to the officials already in service will be withdrawn to provide employment for the younger generation?

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

CORRUPTION IN THE ENGINEERING BRANCH OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

230. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether Government are aware that there is great corruption in the Engineering Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and if so whether any special staff is maintained to keep down the corruption?

Sir Harold Shoobert: Government have no reason at all to believe that there is great corruption in the Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department mentioned by the Honourable Member although a few cases of alleged corruption and malpractice have been brought to their notice which are being investigated. Such few cases do not call for the setting up of a special staff.

PROMOTION OF INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES

231. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) if it is a fact that the Inspectors of Post Offices who were nominated for appointment as Superintendents of Post Offices and who proceeded on Field Service are being made permanent in the alternative vacancies in the Superintendents cadre,

(b) if it is a fact that this concession was not given to them when they proceeded on Field Service and has been given only in 1945,

(c) if it is a fact that the inferior servants of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who had worked as Clerks for six months in the civil and clerks who had qualified in the Inspectors Examination were deputed to the Field Service on the condition that after completion of 12 months satisfactory service they will become eligible for permanent appointment,

(d) if it is a fact that no vacancies have been reserved for them in the cadres for which they become eligible, and

(e) if the replies to parts (a) to (d) above are in the affirmative will Government state whether the officials mentioned in part (c) above will be appointed in the alternative vacancies in the cadres for which they have become eligible?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) No

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes

(d) No reservation of particular vacancies in the Inspectors' cadre has been made, but the names of eligible candidates are to be brought on to the list of officials approved for appointment upon completion of 12 months' satisfactory service in the field. The inferior servants who become eligible for promotion to the clerical cadre in consideration of service rendered while in the field with Army Postal units are to be appointed against the departmental quota of 20 per cent posts reserved for promotion of postmen and inferior staff to the clerical grades.

(e) No. The officials referred to are, however, likely to be absorbed permanently in the higher grades in due course.

EXPRESS DELIVERY OF INLAND AIR MAIL LETTERS

232. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether it is a fact that inland air mail letters are surcharged at the rate of one anna and are delivered by special messengers or by effecting special delivery? If so, what is the propriety of express delivery for which two annas are charged?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No 228

Sir Harold Shobert: There is a surcharge on inland air mail letters of one anna per tola or part thereof payable in addition to ordinary postage. Special arrangements for the delivery of inland air mail letters exist at a few places only. It has been necessary to make these arrangements because the air mails at these places arrive after the ordinary deliveries of the day have gone out from post offices. In regard to the last part of the question, I would explain that letters upon which an Express Delivery charge is paid are, on receipt at the office of destination, treated in the same way as telegrams.

UTILIZATION OF INFERIOR STAFF FOR COOLIE JOBS BY POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OFFICERS

233. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether Government are aware that the services of the inferior staff, etc., are utilised for coolies job when the Posts and Telegraphs Officers are out on tour? If so, whether these inferior servants are paid for the work done by them on such occasions?

Sir Harold Shobert: The question as framed by the Honourable Member does not indicate precisely what information is required. I may state that Government have received no complaints or representations upon this subject, but I am prepared to make enquiries if the Honourable Member can quote any particular cases in which the services of the inferior Posts and Telegraphs staff have been improperly utilised.

INCREASED PAY TO CIRCLE OFFICE OFFICIALS IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

234. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) if it is a fact that the new scale of the 1st Division Clerks of the Circle Offices of the Post and Telegraph Department has been fixed higher than the old scale,

(b) if it is a fact that their pay has been raised by 5 per cent by the Adjudicator's Award, and

(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, whether the Circle Office Officials in the old scale of pay will also be given the benefit of increase of pay by 5 per cent?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) No, except only for the Circle offices at Nagpur and Patna

(b) Yes

(c) Yes, in the case of officials of the class referred to serving in the Circle offices at Karachi, Lucknow, Lahore, Nagpur and Patna, where the old scales of pay are either slightly lower than the revised scales introduced with effect from 1931, or identical with those scales. In other places where the old scales are higher than the revised scales, no increase is to be given to officials drawing pay in the old scales.

WHITE PAPER SCHEME re RAIL ROAD COORDINATION

235. ***Mr. P. B. Gole:** Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy as explained in the white paper regarding rail-road co-ordination scheme is still being pursued by the Government of India,

(b) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of the majority of *ad-hoc* Committee appointed by this Assembly regarding the part to be taken by the railways in the rail-road co-ordination, are being followed by Government, and

(c) whether Government intend to open new lines of Railways, if so, whether the new lines are meant for strategic purposes or for meeting commercial and passenger needs?

The Honourable Mr M Asaf Ali (a) and (b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given on 28th October 1946 to question No 9 asked by Sri Mangil Singh. This contains a statement of the Indian Government's policy.

(c) Government have under survey investigation various new lines totalling about 5000 miles both for strategic purposes and for meeting commercial needs. A statement giving the list of such projects is laid on the table. The construction of these lines will be considered when the survey reports are received and examined.

The above programme includes about 1066 miles of lines recommended by the Defence Department for strategic purposes, out of which about 420 miles of lines have also been recommended by Provincial Governments as civil projects.

List of approved Railway projects—New constructions in India

NOTE Strategic projects are marked with an asterisk

Projects which are both Commercial and Strategic are marked with double asterisk

	Approx Miles	Thro tropic zone
FAST INDIAN RAILWAYS		
(a) <i>Discontinued lines to be Reopened—</i>		
1 Unao Mathoganj Balamau	78	B G
2 Bijnor Chandpur Saus	21	B G
3 Ultra to Sultanpur Jafarabad	130	B G
(b) <i>New Lines—</i>		
1 Kucha Chaulsi	65	B G
2 Barantrajpur Barwadih	120	B G
3 Chirmar Barwah (Garhwa road or Untari Road)	140	B G
4 Barkagaon Hazarbagh Girdh Dumka Rampur Haut	225	B G
5 Gaya Sherghat Chatra Ranchi	110	B G
BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY		
(a) <i>Reconstruction of Discontinued Lines—</i>		
1 Shalaganj Habganj	8	M G
2 Moranhat Khowang	6	M G
3 Amnura Chapai Nawabganj	10	B G
(b) <i>New Lines—</i>		
1 Bahadurabad Goalpara Pandu with a Bridge at Goalpara Jogopara and a link from the bridge to Bongagaon, also Gourpur Mymensingh Mahendraganj	283**	M G
2 Sylhet Bazar Chatak	21	M G
3 Khowang Dibrugarh	12	M G
4 Faridpur Madaripur Barisal	80	B G

	Approx : Mileages	The proposed gauge
(b) <i>New Lines</i> —contd.		
5. Saintha Barhampore-Bhairamara	16	B G
6. Rohanpur-Nithpur-Dinajpur	76	B G
7. Jharia-Jhanjail Baghmara-Siju-Jankarai	37	M G
(c) <i>Conversion</i> —		
1. Tazpur-Balipara to be converted from N G. to M G	20	M G.

BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

(a) <i>Dismantled Lines to be Restored</i> —		
1. Bobbili-Salur	10	B G
(b) <i>New Lines</i> —		
1. Ramagundam-Bestar-Jagdai-pur Jeypur Rayagada	290	B G
The portion between Ramagundam and Bailadila shall be surveyed by H. E. H. the Nizam Railway		
2. Rajnandgaon (or Drug)-Bestar via Kankar and Tara-gaon	120	B G
3. Sambalpur-Kondagaon via Lochupur and Kantabanji	247	B G
4. Talchar (along the valley of Brahmani river)-Keel Bank	100	B G
5. Talbandh (or Bangriposi)-Badampahar (or Sulpat or Rairangpur) including conversion of Rupsa-Talbandh to B G	85	(including 70 miles of conversion) B G
6. Khurda Road-Sonepur-Lochupur	123	B G
7. Vishnupur-Santragechi	68	B G
8. Contai Road-Contai-Tamluk-Kolaghat-Ghatal-Chandra-kona.	150	B G
9. Extension of Lohardaga to meet Barwadish-Birmatrapur	23	B G.
10. Naupada-Gunpur extension and conversion to B G	27	B G.
11. Gopalpur-Behrampur-Russelkonda	57	B. G
12. Nomandi to Joda	16	B G
(c) <i>Conversion</i> —		
1. Puruli to Lohardaga	116**	B. G

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

(a) <i>New Lines</i> —		
1. Dindigul-Gudallur with restoration of Theni-Madura	70	M. G
2. Kollengodo-Cochin Port	41	M. G.
3. Tanjore-Pattukotta	29	M. G.
4. Arantangi-Karaiikkudi	20	M. G.

	Approx : Mileages	The proposed gauge
M. & S. M. RAILWAY		
(a) <i>New Lines—</i>		
1. Alnavar-Hahyal-Yellapur-Karwar	70	M. G.
2. Ellore-Saveri Valley	70	B. G.
G I P. RAILWAY		
(a) <i>Dismantled Lines to be Restored—</i>		
1. Cawnpore-Khairada	81	B. G.
(b) <i>New Lines—</i>		
1. Diva-Daegaon	93	B. G.
2. Manmad-Nardhana	79	B. G.
3. Belapur Road-Sheogaon	45	B. G.
4. Baramati-Pandharpur	35	B. G.
5. Ahmedpur-Sheogaon	45	B. G.
6. Kuria-Karjat	35	B. G.
7. Amraoti-Narkher	79	B. G.
B B & C I. RAILWAY		
(a) <i>Dismantled Lines to be Restored—</i>		
1. Vasad-Kathana	27	B. G.
(b) <i>New Lines—</i>		
1. Bulsar-Dharampur	17	B. G.
2. Khandwa-Hingoli	169*	M. G.
3. Ajmer-Kotah	100	M. G.
ODDH TIRHUT RAILWAY		
(a) <i>New Lines—</i>		
1. Kashipur-Kalagarh	30	M. G.
2. Chakia Alwalia-Sikhwaha	27	M. G.
3. Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa	20	M. G.
4. Murliganj-Madhepura	13	M. G.
JODHPUR RAILWAY		
(a) <i>New Lines—</i>		
1. Pithoro-Kahi-Tando Mithakhan-Sanghar-Jhol	62	M. G.

	Approx Mileages	The proposed gauge
NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY		
(a) Dismantled Lines to be Restored—		
1 Nagrota-Jogindernagar	35	N G.
2 Rohtak-Panipat via Gohana	20	B G.
(b) New Lines—		
1 Havelian Garhi Habibullah	43	B G.
2 Charsadda Muridan	17	B G.
3 Peshawar-Ismael Khan	40	B G.
4 Tando Mohd Khan Moghalan (Jati Taluka)	72	B G.
5 Badli-Gujrat (Bombay Sind)	268*	B G.
6 Karachi-Kolrat Quetta	410*	B G.
7 Peshawar-Kohat	40*	B G.
8 Kohat Bannu	80*	B G.
9 Rupar-Talsaura	37	B G.
10 Khushab-Nurpur Darya Khan	70	B G.
11 Kashmir Dera Ghazi Khan	10	N G.
12 Jhang Malout	100	B G.
13 Khewra-Chakwal	40	B G.
(c) Conversion—		
1 Marri Indus-Bannu and Marri Laki Marwat from N G to B G	158**	B G.
2 Jacobabad-Kashmere from N G to B G	77	B G.
3 Kohat-Thal	64*	B G.

INTRODUCTION OF SKELTON'S GUIDEWAYS SYSTEM OF TRANSPORT BETWEEN VILLAGES BY RAILWAYS

236. ***Mr. P. B. Gole:** Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the skelton's guideways system demonstrated to the Officers of the Railway Board, at Dapuri near Poona in 1937-39, and recently in the Jamnagar State is a cheaper and more convenient form of transport and has a greater hauling power? If so, do Government propose to introduce it as means of communication between villages?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: No officer of the Railway Board was present at the demonstrations of the Skelton guideways system at Dapuri near Poona in 1937-39 or in the Jamnagar State later on. In 1939 the Board arranged for a Railway Officer to examine a project of the guideways system for the Kashmir State. On the findings of the Railway Officer His Highness' Government decided to drop the idea of experimenting with the scheme.

As matters stand at present, there is no proposal for the Railway Department to embark on an experiment which requires to be tried out.

REDUCED INTERIM RELIEF PAID TO VIZAGAPATAM PORT WORKMEN

237. *Sri N. Narayanamurthi: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if Government are aware that while all the employees of the Central Government are given interim relief at Rs 8/4/- per mensem, the Vizagapatam Port workmen alone are being paid at only Rs 4/8/- and that too only from April last and with no retrospective effect as in the case of the others who were paid from July 1945?

(b) If so, do Government propose to remove this discrimination?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Central Government servants in Civil Departments other than the Railway and Posts and Telegraphs Departments, who were in service on the 1st July, 1946, have been granted interim relief with retrospective effect from 1st July 1945 as follows —

(i) Addition to pay at Rs 3 per mensem, for those on a pay up to and including Rs 40 per mensem, and at Rs 4-8-0 per mensem for those on a pay above Rs 40 per mensem and up to Rs 250 per mensem, and

(ii) Compensatory allowance for those on a pay up to Rs 300 per mensem at a flat rate of Rs 3-12-0 per mensem in areas where the supply of foodstuffs at concessional rates to Central Government servants has not been arranged by the Government of India

The staff of the Vizagapatam Port prior to 1st April, 1946, from which date the Port came under the administrative control of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, were eligible for relief in accordance with the above orders for the period from 1st July, 1945 to 31st March, 1946, and instructions to pay them the relief in accordance with these orders were issued on 19th October, 1946. From 1st April, 1946 the staff of the Vizagapatam Port are treated as railway servants and are entitled to relief on the scale sanctioned for other railway servants, i.e., at a flat rate of Rs 4-8-0 per mensem, grantshop concessions being admissible in addition.

(b) In view of the position as explained in the reply to part (a) above the question does not arise.

VICTORY BONUS TO VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR AND PORT WORKMEN

238. *Sri N. Narayanamurthi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) whether Government are aware that the "Victory Bonus" given to all Military services was not extended to the Vizagapatam Harbour and Port workmen, who were directly under the War Department till April, 1946, and who underwent the worst privations and risks of war including Japanese aerial bombing, and

(b) whether Government propose to extend the said Bonus to them also, as recommended by the Madras Port Trust and in the same manner as it was applied in the case of the Madras Port workers?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Victory Bonus has not been allowed to employees of the Vizagapatam Port. It must, however, be explained that the award in the case of military services was not a Victory Bonus but a War Gratuity. The latter has not been granted to the Defence of India personnel, including such personnel on Railways, Posts and Telegraphs and Ports, except in the case of those who drew military rates of pay when serving in field service areas.

(b) As stated in the reply to Diwan Chaman Lall's Starred Question in this House on the 14th March 1946, Victory Bonus has not been allowed to Government employees. Staff of the Madras Port Trust are employees of a non-Government body. Government do not propose to treat Vizagapatam Harbour and Port workmen differently from other Government employees.

PROPOSAL BY BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY TO DIVERT THROUGH PASSENGER TRAINS BETWEEN MADRAS AND CALCUTTA FROM SIMHACHALAM TO ANAKAPALLI DIRECT

239. *Sri N. Narayanamurthi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) whether there is any proposal by the authorities of the Bengal Nagpur Railway to divert all the Mail and Passenger and other through trains between Madras and Calcutta from Simhachalam to Anakapalli direct without touching Waltair and thus reduce the present Simhachalam-Waltair section of the main-line into a branch-line,

(b) if the reply to part (a) above is in the affirmative, when, by whom and for what reasons, this proposal was made,

(c) whether, Government are aware, that such a step is bound to be not only harmful to the best interests of the Vizagapatam City and Port, but also diametrically opposite to the recent recommendations of the Technical Committee for the development of Ports regarding the future expansion and development of the possibilities of Vizagapatam Harbour and ship-building yards, and

(d) whether Government propose to stop any such move on the part of the Bengal Nagpur Railway authorities and consider an alternative plan of developing the present Waltair Railway Station into a first class junction Station and connecting it with new lines?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali. (a) and (b) The Bengal Nagpur Railway administration are considering a proposal to run the Madras-Calcutta Mails via Simhachalam North Station instead of Waltair as at present, and the proposal is under examination in consultation with the M & S M Railway authorities. There is no intention at present to extend the proposal to include other passenger trains. Should it be decided to effect this change, the Bengal Nagpur Railway will provide convenient shuttle services between Simhachalam North and Vizagapatam Town, connecting with Up and Down mail trains. These shuttle trains will be provided with "Through" coaches to and from Vizagapatam Town with accommodation for luggage and mails. The "Through" coaches will afford considerable convenience to passengers from Vizagapatam Town and Waltair since they will be able to secure accommodation from the start of their journey whereas at present they have to face the uncertainty of finding accommodation in a through train passing Waltair station.

It is estimated that the proposed diversion will reduce the time taken at present for the journey between Calcutta and Madras by approximately 45 minutes by eliminating that portion of the present journey from Gopalapatnam to Waltair which is considered necessary only for passengers travelling to and from Vizagapatam Town and Waltair.

(c) Government endorse the opinion of the Railway administration that the proposal, if adopted, will neither be harmful to the interests of Vizagapatam City, nor affect the development and expansion of the port.

(d) Since the proposal is designed to accelerate the journey for through passengers between Calcutta and Madras for whom the mail trains are primarily intended, while at the same time providing an improved service for passengers to and from Vizagapatam Town and Waltair, Government consider that it would not be in the public interest to stop further consideration of the proposal.

As regards Waltair station the Bengal Nagpur Railway have under consideration the improvement of facilities for the travelling public at that station.

DETAILS re STRIKES ON RAILWAYS

240. *Sri N. Narayanamurthi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay on the table of the House a statement giving the undermentioned details (preferably in a tabular form) about strikes which have broken out since 1928 on various railway administrations

(i) name of railway on which the strike broke out;

- (ii) duration of the strike,
- (iii) causes of the strike,
- (iv) measures to settle with the strikes, and
- (v) the result of each?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I lay on the table of the House a statement* giving the available information so far as it relates to Indian Government Railways

PURCHASE OF FOOD BY INDIA FROM ABROAD

241. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state how much food has been purchased by India from abroad (i) by Government and Governmental agencies, and (ii) by private individuals?

(b) What prices have been paid for these purchases?

(c) Is it true that these prices were very high?

(d) What is the total quantity of money involved?

(e) In what manner was payment settled and in how many cases was there a barter arrangement?

(f) What are the detailed terms of these barter arrangements and do Government propose to lay a copy of these terms on the table of the House?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b) Statements giving the necessary details are laid on the table of the House

(c) Yes

(d) Approximately 577 crores

(e) Except in the case of Indonesian paddy the payment for supplies in all cases was made in cash

(f) A copy of the Agreement with the Indonesian Republic is placed on the table

Purchase of foodgrains made by the Government of India on Government account during the current financial year

Country from which imported	Purchasing Agency	Kind of food-grain	Quantity in tons	Landed price per maund
				Rs a p
Argentina	Dreyfus & Co and Indian Govt Trade Commissioner, Buenos Aires	Maize	304,000	13 3 4
Do	Do	Millets	16,000	11 1 0
Do	Dreyfus & Co London	Rye	2,000	17 5 0
Do	Do	Kaffir Corn	750	12 13 0
Australia	Ralls Bros Ltd, Karachi	Millets	900	13 7 0
Do	H M G.	Barley	1,050	13 8 0
Do.	Maars Corp, Madras	Millets	300	11 4 0

*Not printed in these Debates A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Country from which imported	Purchasing Agency	Kind of food-grains	Quantity in tons	Landed price per maund
				Rs a r
Australia	Ministry of Food	Wheat	304,193	9 12
Do	Do	Wheat flour	128,157	13 5
Egypt	Indian Govt Trade Commr, Egypt	Millets	40,700	14 9 0
Do	Do	Barley	7,007	14 9 0
Iraq	Andrew Weir Co, Basra	Millets	2,000	14 9 0
Do	Saapen Co, Bombay	Do	170	17 9 0
Abyssinia	Besse & Co, Aden	Jowar	1,421	13 0 0
Canada	Indian Supply Mission	Oats	30,358	11 1 0
U S A	Do	Milo	45,500	13 10 0
Do	Do	Wheat	410,695	12 0 1
Do	Do	Wheat flour	9,758	13 5 9
Do	Do	Corn	90,617	13 2 0
Turkey	Ministry of Food	Barley	4,900	9 10 9 to 13 9 0
Burma	Government of Burma	Maize	5,030	9 15 6
Do	Ministry of Food	Rice	149,444	16 0 0
Siam	Do	Do	8,700	9 12 0
Saigon and Indonesia	Do	Do	19,890	12 12 0
Brazil	Do	Do	51,682	13 15 0 to 30 0 0
		Total cost in	crores Rs	57 72

Purchase of foodgrains through private individuals

Country from which imported	Agency	Grain	Quantity	Landed cost	Total cost
			Tons		Rs.
Abyssinia	Surashtra Seva Samiti,	Wheat	440	About Rs. 12-12-0 per maund.	1,52,000

[6TH Nov 1946]

Batavia, 27th July 1946

From The Representative,
Government of India
To The Prime Minister,
Indonesian Republic

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to recent conversations ~~and between us~~ and to state that the Government of India are grateful to the Indonesian Republic for the generous offer to supply paddy to India. They deeply appreciate your desire to relieve the critical food situation in India.

2 I am to assure you that the Government of India desire to assist Indonesia to relieve the shortage of consumer goods and will supply such goods as are required by you to the maximum extent possible.

3 The Government of India accept the offer to supply paddy on the terms and conditions mentioned below —

(a) Seven hundred thousand tons of paddy will be supplied.

(b) The price of paddy will be rupees ten, annas thirteen and four pies per one hundred kilogrammes.

(c) Paddy will be delivered at ports in bags which will be supplied free, for this purpose, by the Government of India.

(d) The paddy to be supplied will be of fair average quality, clean and full grain and without stem. Dust mixture will be kept at a minimum and, in any case, will not exceed five per cent. In case the quality of paddy offered is below the specification mentioned above, the shipping officer of the Government of India will have the option either to reject the supply or to purchase it at such lower price as may be mutually agreed between the representatives of the Government of India and the Indonesian Republic.

(e) The value of paddy supplied by the Indonesian Republic will be set off against the amount due to the Government of India on account of consumer goods supplied to the Indonesian Republic, and the balance, if any, will be paid in India to the authorised agents or bankers of the Indonesian Republic. If on the other hand, a net payment is due to the Government of India the Indonesian Republic will pay to the Government of India such amount in rupees in India.

(f) The Government of India will arrange shipping and will do all in their power to supplement local resources of lighters and tugs. You have kindly agreed to provide trained labour and such lighters and tugs as are available for loading operations. Labour and lighter charges will be paid by the Government of India at the current scale of payment for such services. The Indonesian Republic will pay the charges, in the first instance, and recover them from the Government of India in rupees at a rate of exchange to be mutually agreed between the Indonesian Republic and the Government of India.

(g) With a view to minimum delay in shipping the Indonesian Republic have agreed to keep stocks of twenty thousand tons of paddy ready at each port. To assist the Indonesian Republic in movement of paddy the Government of India will endeavour to provide additional motor transport so far as they are able to do so.

(h) The Government of India will supply to the Indonesian Republic, on payment in India at prices agreed upon such quantities of textile piecegoods, yarn, agricultural implements motor tyres and tubes, cooking utensils and other consumer goods as are required by you and can be supplied by India. For handling and freight charges incurred by the Government of India will also be paid by the Indonesian Republic.

I file this decision to renew to Your Excellency the expression of my high consideration.

K L PANJABI,

Representative of the Government of India

Jaatra, 27th July 1946

From The Prime Minister
Indonesian Republic
To The Representative
Government of India

Dear Mr Panjabi,

I have great pleasure in acknowledging receipt of your letter of the same date. It has been my earnest desire to relieve the critical food situation in India by supply of paddy from Indonesia.

2 I am very glad to note that the Government of India desire to assist the Indonesian Republic to relieve the shortage of consumer goods and that they will supply such goods as are required by us to the maximum extent possible

3 I confirm that the Indonesian Republic will supply paddy to the Government of India on the terms and conditions mentioned below —

(a) Seven hundred thousand tons of paddy will be supplied

(b) The price of paddy will be rupees ten, annas thirteen and four pies per one hundred kilogrammes

(c) Paddy will be delivered at ports in bags which will be supplied free for this purpose by the Government of India

(d) The paddy to be supplied will be of fair average quality, clean and full grain, and without stem. Dust mixture will be kept at a minimum and, in any case, will not exceed 5 per cent. In case the quality of paddy offered is below the specification mentioned above, the shipping officer of the Government of India will have the option either to reject the supply or to purchase it at such lower price as may be mutually agreed between the representatives of the Government of India and the Indonesian Republic.

(e) The value of paddy supplied by the Indonesian Republic will be set off against the amount due to the Government of India on account of consumer goods supplied to the Indonesian Republic, and the balance, if any, will be paid in India to the authorised agents or bankers of the Indonesian Republic. If on the other hand, a net payment is due to the Government of India, the Indonesian Republic will pay to the Government of India such amount in rupees in India.

(f) The Government of India will arrange shipping and will do all in their power to supplement local resources of lighters and tugs. The Indonesian Republic will provide trained labour and such lighters and tugs as are available for loading operations. Labour and lighter charges will be paid by the Government of India at the current scale of payment for such services. The Indonesian Republic will pay these charges in the first instance and recover them from the Government of India in rupees at a rate of exchange to be mutually agreed between the Indonesian Republic and the Government of India.

(g) With a view to minimise delay in shipping the Indonesian Republic have agreed to keep stocks of twenty thousand tons of paddy at each port. To assist the Indonesian Republic in this the Government of India will endeavour to provide additional motor transport as far as they are able to do so.

(h) The Government of India will supply to the Indonesian Republic on payment in India, in prices mutually agreed upon such quantities of textile goods, yarn, agricultural implements, motor cycles and tubes, cooking utensils and other consumer goods as are required by us and can be supplied by India. The handling and light charges incurred by the Government of India will also be paid by the Indonesian Republic.

With renewed expression of our sentiments of sympathy and friendship for India I remain,

Yours sincerely
S. J. KHERR

NUMBER OF FOOD SHIPS WHICH ARRIVED IN INDIA SINCE JANUARY 1946

242. *Mr. Manu Subedar* (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state how many food ships have arrived in India from January, 1946 and at which ports they were landed?

(b) Why was it found necessary to take food ships to the port of Karachi, which is itself an exporting port?

(c) What arrangements have Government made for storage, landing and bagging at different ports for the requirements of the deficit areas in food?

(d) Have Government any information of the articles which the ships, that brought food to India, carried and what was the freight rate charged on (i) bringing food to India, and (ii) taking other cargo from India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) From the first January to 24th October 233 ships carrying foodgrains have arrived in India. I place a statement on the table of the House showing the number of ships which arrived at each port during each month of this period.

(b) Though Karachi is an exporting port, some imports had to be brought there at certain times of the year to meet shortages in areas normally served by Sind and the Punjab. It will be seen from the statement which I have just placed on the table that during the period January to April 16 ships were received at Karachi, during May and June six, none in July and August and four full

ships and three part cargoes in September and October. Early in the year the North of India had exhausted wheat surpluses and it was necessary to bring grain to Karachi to meet deficits in Delhi, N W F P and similar other deficit areas. During July and August when the surpluses of Sind and the Punjab were available, no ships were brought in. Now that these surpluses are exhausted, grain must be brought to Karachi in order not merely to feed these areas but also to repay the loans of wheat which we have taken from Sind, Bahawalpur and the Punjab.

(c) The Government of India have appointed Clearing Agents at various ports whose business it is to clear and bag the grain and to deliver it in accordance with Government's instructions.

(d) Information regarding the cargo carried away by the ships in question from India and the freight charged on that cargo is not readily available. A statement showing the freight charged for food from various countries is placed on the table of the House.

I. Statement showing the number of ships carrying imported foodgrains received at Indian ports from 1st January 1946 to 24th October 1946

Month	Karachi		Okha		Bhavnagar		Bombay		Marmugoa		Cochin		Tuticorin		Cuddalore		Madras		Vizagapatnam		Calcutta		Mandapam		Total
	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	
January	2						9				1						1	3			1	3			20
February	6				2	6											1				3	4			22
March	3				2	4															2	1			12
April	5				1	7					1										2				16
May	4					9			1								9				1	3			27
June	2		1			2			1		4						1	3	1						17
July						1	7	2			1	8	3		1	3	4				4	7			41
August					1	1	5	1	3		2		1	1	1	3	6	1			2	6			34
September	1	1				3	5	1	1		2	6	2	1		1	6	1			2	7	1		40
October (up to 24th October 1946)	3	3				4	5	1			4		2			1	7				1				31
Total	3	26	1	1	1	14	59	3	7		5	24	3	7	2	11	38		2	1	15	36		1	260

P. — Part Cargo

F. — Full Cargo

II Statement showing freight for foodgrains imported into India

Australian Wheat and Wheat Flour

Name of foodgrain	Freight rate
Australian wheat—	
1. From West Australia—	
(a) Bulk wheat	61 sh per ton
(b) Bagged wheat	77 sh per ton
Australian Flour—	
2. From State other than West Australia—	
(a) Bulk wheat	76 sh per ton
(b) Bagged wheat	88 sh per ton
(c) Wheat flour	95 sh 6d per ton
3 If discharged at—	
(a) Two ports Range some coast extra charges	2 sh 6d per ton
(b) Extra range or Madras extra charges	8 sh 6d per ton
(c) Two ports Madras Bombay extra charges	6 sh per ton

American and Canadian Wheat

Early supplies		at 103 6d to 111 p r ton
A For loadings completed up to and including 20th June 1946		
(i) To East Coast Indian Ports—		
From U S Atlantic Ports	U S \$ 29 00 per ton	
From U S Gulf Ports	U S \$ 29 75 per ton	
(ii) To West Coast Indian Ports from U S Atlantic Ports		U S \$ 25 75 per ton
From U S Gulf Ports	U S \$ 26 75 per ton	
B For loading completed on or after 21st June 1946		
(i) To East Coast Indian Ports from U S Atlantic Ports		U S \$ 30 00 per ton
From U S Gulf Ports	U S \$ 30 75 per ton	
(ii) To West Coast Indian Ports from U S Atlantic Ports		U S \$ 28 65 per ton
From U S Gulf Ports	U S \$ 27 65 per ton	

These rates apply to cargoes landed at one port and discharged at one port. For more than one port of discharge, 50 Cents of U S A currency per ton will be levied for each additional port to the highest applicable rate.

Maize

Name of foodgrain	Freight rate
Argentina	Sh 107 6d per ton
Burma	Rs 46 1 per ton

Millet

Argentina	Sh 107 6d per ton
Egyptian	From sh 60 to 65 per ton
Iraqi	Rs 55 per ton

Barley

Egyptian	From sh 60 to 65 per ton
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Rye, Kaffir Corn, Jauar, Oats and Milo

Argentine Rye	107 sh 6d per ton
Canadian Oats	155 sh per ton Rs 3-12-10 per md (East coast)
	144 sh 6d per ton Rs 3 8 9 per md (West coast)

CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF MEMBERSHIP OF INDIA OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES
e.g. COMBINED FOOD BOARD

243. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state the manner in which India has been saddled with the membership of international bodies, such as the Combined Food Board, and the Combined Raw Materials Board, and what is the constitutional position in respect of these at the present moment?

(b) In how many such Boards is India involved?

(c) What is the influence of these Boards with regard to the (i) fixing of prices, and (ii) quantity exported to different destinations?

(d) Have Government received any protest against the fixing of prices in India of some of the materials through this machinery, and, if so, in which cases, and which are the articles that are affected in this manner, apart from tea, rubber, jute, shellac, iron and hides?

(e) Is it a fact that the interests of the Indian producer of raw materials were adversely affected through the operation of these Boards?

(f) When and in what manner do Government propose that India should be free to deal with these topics in India instead of in London, as has been the case hitherto?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (c), (b), (e) and (f) So far as India's relationship with International Food Organisations is concerned, the attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the opening portion of the "Memorandum on the Food position in India" laid on the table of the House at the beginning of this Session. The Combined Raw Materials Board and the Combined Production and Resources Board were dissolved long ago. India, however, still continues to be a Member of the Combined Textiles Committee at Washington. I lay on the table a copy of a document giving terms of reference and procedure of the Combined Textiles Committee. The Committee has no control over the fixation of prices of goods for export.

(d) This does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

March 29, 1946

COMBINED TEXTILE COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference and Procedure

The United Nations continues to face substantial deficits in cotton textile products. This condition requires co-ordination of all cotton textile resources in order to insure the most equitable possible distribution.

The Combined Textile Committee at its first meeting on March 29, 1946 adopted the following terms of reference and outline of procedure as a means to ensuring an equitable distribution of limited supplies. In adopting these terms of reference the Committee recognizes the right of each country to direct its own export through its appropriate national agencies and believes that Combined Textile Committee recommendations should cover only such adjustments as appear necessary to ensure effective co-ordination. It is understood that the fiscal and trade arrangements necessary to carry out national export programmes are solely the responsibility of the national fiscal authorities concerned.

1 *Terms of Reference* — To recommend to member governments the minimum quantities of broad woven cotton goods and cotton yarn to be made available by them for export to the several importing countries including liberated territories having regard to minimum requirements for maintaining essential civilian standards and preventing disease and unrest to the ability of particular importing countries or agencies to procure such goods from the different main exporting markets and their opportunities of procurement from unallocated sources, and to the responsibility of all the main exporting countries to share in relieving the world shortage of cotton textiles, to advise on the distribution of any stocks or export capacity of conquered countries in textiles and textile products as may be required for these purposes.

2 *Procedure* — (a) *Production and its Allocation* — About one month prior to the beginning of each quarter or allocation period (which may be three months, six months or a year, depending upon which best suits the planning of national agencies concerned) the national supply agencies of each country should file through its member on the Committee a statement as to the anticipated production of cotton broad woven goods during the coming quarter or allocation period and the division of this production as between the major claimants.

(b) *Requirements and Export Allocations* — The export agencies of the supplying countries should file with the Committee through their respective members, about one month prior to the beginning of the quarter or allocation period, a statement on cotton broad woven goods, setting forth:

(1) The total screened valdage import requirements of each country to whom exports are proposed for the coming quarter together with a supporting statement, where necessary.

(2) The amount which it is intended to allocate to each country for the coming quarter, or allocation period.

(c) *Staff Recommendations* — The Staff of the Combined Textile Committee after an analysis of the information contained in 1 and 2 above, and taking into account probable supplies from non member countries, will develop a combined programme recommending such adjustments in the distribution of each country's export programme as appear appropriate to secure an equitable distribution as is possible of available supplies particularly to areas which are seriously undersupplied.

(d) *Committee Recommendation* — The Committee members will review the Staff Recommendation and agree upon a final recommendation to be transmitted by each member to the agency in his country responsible for the allocation of cotton broad woven goods for export. This Recommendation should be issued prior to the beginning of a quarter or the allocation period.

(e) *Residual Allocations* — Each member will transmit to the Committee any amendments which are made in the Combined Export Programme as issued by the Committee. It is understood that in the event an importing country is unable to take up all or part of any approved allocation the national allocating agency shall inform the Combined Textile Committee as to the reallocation of this amount.

DISPOSAL OF TEXTILES BY DISPOSALS BOARD

244. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the total quantity of textiles disposed of by the Disposals Board and how much total quantity still remains?

(b) What is the total quantity of ready-made clothes imported into India since the stoppage of hostilities?

(c) Have Government any information about the trade in second-hand clothing and, if so, have Government considered whether this trade should continue unrestricted and unchecked?

(d) Has any fumigation by chemical cleaning of second-hand clothing imported from abroad been done?

(e) Are Government aware that poor people are buying such clothing?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A statement is laid on the table showing the total quantities of cotton textiles disposed of and remaining for disposal

(b) Statistics in respect of imports of second-hand clothing are maintained in terms of value. The total value of such imports for the twelve months' period July 1945 to June 1946 amounted to Rs 19,41,460

(c) Government do not see any present necessity to interfere with the second-hand clothing trade

(d) Enquiries are being made

(e) Yes, Sir

Statement showing total quantities of Cotton Textiles disposed of and remaining for disposal on 30th September 1946

(1) *Piecegoods*

Total quantity declared surplus—120 million yards

Balance yet to be disposed of—80 million yards, which includes approximately 33 million yards in respect of which full particulars are awaited. Bulk of remaining 47 million yards consists of hospital items and canvas

(2) *Yarn.*

Total quantity declared surplus—1.5 million pounds.

Balance yet to be disposed of—0.55 million pounds, which includes 0.24 million pounds in respect of which full particulars are awaited. Remaining 0.31 million pounds consists of specialised counts not suitable for weaving

(3) *Sewing Thread*

Total quantity declared surplus—7.47 million Reels, Cops and Balls

Balance yet to be disposed of—4.98 million Reels, Cops and Balls which includes 3.8 millions in respect of which full particulars are awaited. Remaining quantity of 1.18 millions is under offer to Provinces

(4) *Garments*

Total quantity declared surplus—6.48 million numbers

Balance yet to be disposed of—1.54 million numbers which includes 0.3 million numbers in respect of which full particulars are awaited

(5) *Tapes, News, Cordages and Webbing*

Total quantity declared surplus—74.40 million yards

Balance yet to be disposed of—29.5 million yards which includes 5.4 million yards in respect of which full particulars are awaited

(6) *Miscellaneous*

(A) *Kapok, Bunting, Lines, Cotton, etc*

Total quantity declared surplus—1.99 million pounds

Balance yet to be disposed of—0.66 million pounds

(B) *Ten Cloth, Gloves, Canvas Tanks and Buckets, Covers, Waterproof, etc*

Total quantity declared surplus—1.06 million numbers

Balance yet to be disposed of—0.82 million numbers

STEPS TO ENCOURAGE BUILDING OF HOUSES IN INDIA

245. *Mr Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the steps that Government have taken to encourage the building of houses in India?

(b) Have the Provincial Governments made any requests in the matter of control of steel, cement, timber and change of priority and for assistance in the matter of railway priority for building material?

(c) If so, what Provincial Governments and with what results and what was the response from the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Government of India have urged upon Provincial Governments the desirability of taking all possible measures to stimulate the building of houses and have requested them to set up Building Materials Panels with this object

(b) and (c) The Bombay Government suggested that the best method of encouraging building of houses might be to remove control over steel and cement. The Government of India removed their control over steel, but they have been compelled recently to reimpose the steel control owing to fall in production and the inadequate supplies now available. The Cement Control lapsed on the 1st October 1946, but has been reimposed by many of the provinces. Here also a central control may become necessary. In both cases however the Control will amount to the allocation of provincial quotas and the provincial governments will be left free to make quantities available for the construction of houses and buildings.

MONEY REALISED BY DISPOSALS

246. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the total amount of money realised by disposals month by month since the disposal work began?

(b) How and for what purpose are the moneys falling in the hands of Government used?

(c) How much is the estimated further realisation from the disposals?

(d) How much of the American material has been disposed of and how much remains to be disposed of?

(e) How much Government expect to pay to the Government of the United States of America in respect of the excess payable to them on this account in respect of American material?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) I regret that monthly figures are not readily available over the whole field. These are being collected and will be laid on the table in due course. From November 1943 to September 1946 total realisations were Rs 55.15 crores.

(b) Proceeds from the disposal of surpluses are not earmarked for any specific purpose. Those from the disposal of India-owned surpluses are credited to the General Revenues of the Government of India and those from the disposal of U.K.-owned surpluses are credited to H.M.G.

(c) It is not possible to furnish an estimate in view of the uncertain factor involved.

(d) Approximately 40,000 motor vehicles and trailers and 60,000 tons of other stores were disposed of up to 30th September 1946. About 2,000 motor vehicles and 476,000 tons of other stores remain.

(e) The bulk of the American material remains to be disposed of. Here again it is not possible to estimate the final total realisation and consequently the total amount payable therefrom to the United States of America.

RETENTION OF SOME OF THE RULES OF DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT UNDER SPECIAL ORDINANCES

247. *Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that some of the rules framed under the Defence of India Act are still retained in original or repeated under special Ordinances,

(b) if so, what those rules are which are still in force, and

(c) the justification of the Government of India for not withdrawing these rules?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: (a) and (b) The Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1946, promulgated on the 25th September, continues in force with or without modification the provisions of the Defence of India Rules mentioned in the Schedule to the Ordinance to which the Honourable Member may refer. The Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Ordinance, 1946, promulgated on the same day, which was made in pursuance of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, provides for the maintenance of controls over the commodities mentioned in clause (a) of section 2 of the Ordinance and substantially reproduces the provisions of the Defence of India Rules under which such controls were previously exercised. The Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Ordinance, 1946, promulgated on the same day, which was also made in pursuance of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, provides for the continuance of all requisitions in force immediately before the expiry of the Defence of India Act and of the power to acquire requisitioned land in certain specified circumstances.

(c) The compelling grounds for the promulgation of these Ordinances were explained in a Press Note, dated the 14th September, 1946, of which a copy is laid on the table.

PRESS NOTE

Several emergency measures made during the war period are due to expire on the 1st October next, either because they have only been made for the duration of the war and six months thereafter or because they encroach upon the legislative or executive authority of Provinces and, therefore, will to the extent of that encroachment cease to have effect six months after the revocation of the Proclamation of Emergency under section 102 of the Constitution Act. The most important of such measures are the Defence of India Act and the Rules and the large number of "Control Orders" made under those Rules.

In particular, the economic controls applied on an all India basis to the production, supply and distribution of essential commodities in short supply, like foodstuffs, textiles, coal, paper, etc., will lapse on the 1st October if no legislative action is taken before that date. Secondly, the expiry of the Defence of India Rules will result in the termination of all requisitions of immovable property and the cessation of the Central Government's powers to acquire property upon which it has created valuable assets during the period of requisition or which it is necessary to acquire for the maintenance of essential supplies and services. Although these two matters fall within the provincial field, the Indian Legislature has been empowered by an Act of Parliament passed in March, last to make laws in respect of them.

Legislation within the normal powers of the India Legislature is also necessary to continue some of the emergency powers exercised during the war period in respect of the following matters —

Trading with the enemy and custody of enemy property, control of foreign exchange and securities, control of capital issues import and export of goods into or from India, Railway priorities, control of shipping and special provisions for safety at sea avoidance of strikes and lock-outs and amicable settlement of trade disputes, regulating the supply of electrical energy by electric supply undertakings and house rent control in Chief Commissioner's Provinces.

If an Interim Government had assumed office earlier it might have been possible to convene a session of the India Legislature and submit all the above legislative proposals in the form of Bills with a view to them being passed before the end of this month. Since this is not practicable, but at the same time it is essential to make some legislative provision for the continuance without a break of the emergency measures referred to above, the Government of India have decided to make such provision in the form of three Ordinances, which will be promulgated by H. E. the Governor General on or about the 25th September. The first, to be called the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Ordinance,

will derive from section 2 of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946, and provide for the continued operation of Central Control over trade and commerce in and the production, supply and distribution of the commodities mentioned in sub-section (1) (a) of that section. These commodities are foodstuffs including edible oilseeds and oils, cotton and woollen textiles, paper, including newsprint, petroleum and petroleum products, spare parts of mechanically propelled vehicles, coal, iron and steel and mica. The second Ordinance to be called the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Ordinance, will derive from section 3 of the above-mentioned statute and provide for the continuance of all requisitions of land in force immediately before the expiry of the Defence of India Act and of the power to acquire any such land in certain specified circumstances and subject to payment of compensation in accordance with the provisions of section 19 of that Act. The third Ordinance, to be called the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, will provide for the continued operation of a few of the Defence of India Rules for the purposes indicated in the preceding paragraph.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT,

NEW DELHI,

The 14th September, 1946

STEP, re ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION IN RAILWAYS AND APPOINTMENT OF
HIGH POWER COMMITTEE

248. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, Government have taken to strengthen the organization for eradicating corruption in the Railways?

(b) Have any steps been taken to direct Railway employees to show greater consideration and politeness to passengers generally, and to third class passengers particularly?

(c) Have any steps been taken to implement the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways regarding the appointment of the High Power Committee? If so, when will the Committee begin to function, and what will be its terms of reference?

(d) What steps have been taken by Government to accelerate production of locomotives and manufacture of all the rolling stock and articles and fittings required for the Railways?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer I have just given to part (a) of Sardar Mangal Singh's Starred Question No 205.

(b) All staff on railways including those having dealings with passengers are required by standing instructions to be helpful, courteous and civil, special emphasis having been laid on the necessity for extending courtesy and assistance to third class passengers. These instructions are repeated constantly through the medium of circulars, posters, and working time-tables and at meetings between officers and inspecting officials and staff. Incivility to the public has been specifically included in the list of offences meriting removal from service under the Discipline Rules. In addition, Complaint Books are maintained at stations in which complaints of incivility on the part of the staff can be recorded by the public. Notices at suitable places are exhibited, drawing the attention of the public to the fact that Complaint Books are maintained.

(c) It has been decided to set up a High Power Committee in accordance with the recommendation of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. The exact composition of the Committee is still under consideration, but it will be presided over by a non-official Chairman. The terms of reference contemplated cover the points suggested by the Standing Finance Committee. The Committee can start its work only after Government have issued orders on the recommendations of the Adjudicator who is now engaged in investigating the matters referred to him. In order to expedite the work of the Committee when it starts, two officers, who will eventually form part of the Committee, have been placed on special duty for the collection of data and other preparatory work.

(d) *Locomotives*—Government are proceeding with all possible speed to build a new workshop at Kanchrapara for local manufacture. Certain machinery has been ordered and some expenditure on works has also been authorized.

Government have also entered into a contract for the production of locomotives and spare boilers with the Tata Locomotive and Electric Company at Tatanagar. For this purpose, the Singhbhum workshops of the E. I. Railway were sold to this Company on the 1st June 1945 and the firm are at present proceeding with the manufacture of boilers as the first step towards the early production of all the locomotives required in India.

Coaches—There is a backlog existing which has to be made up, but there is no reason to suppose that the indigenous industry now existing plus the capacity of Railway Workshops cannot in a very short time make up for the deficiency which now exists. Thereafter, Railways themselves will have sufficient capacity to keep pace with demands from year to year as they did in pre-war days.

Capacity has been found with Messrs Hindustan Aircraft Ltd and the firms constituting the wagon panel, viz., Braithwaites, Burns and Jessops, have the contract for 350 Broad Gauge lower class carriages. It is the intention to place orders for 100 Metre Gauge class bogie coaches on the wagon panel firms and on Hindustan Aircraft Ltd when capacity becomes available.

Wagons—Capacity of the wagon building panel in India is considered sufficient for the normal requirements of Railways, plus considerable increase above normal requirements should these be found necessary.

Other materials and fittings—As a result of the complete cessation of imports and the difficulty of purchasing from indigenous sources it was found necessary during the war to co-ordinate capacity of railway workshops. Rationalization Committees were formed that performed and continued to perform useful work to promote the self-sufficiency of railway workshops.

A classified provisional list of stores items required by Railways has been prepared by the Industries and Supplies Department which list covers well over 1,000 classes of items, including common user items. Of these, about 210 are imported. The Development wing of the Industries and Supplies Department has been formed for the purpose of bringing to the attention of potential manufacturers those imported articles which lend themselves to indigenous manufacture and the starting of new industries.

IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL FOR THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS ON RAILWAYS

249. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the steps that have been taken by Government to relieve congestion in Railways and particularly to improve the conditions of travel for third class passengers?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: With regard to first part of the question, I would refer to the reply given by me on 31st October, 1946, to Starred Question No. 119, asked by Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal.

As regards improvement in the conditions of travel, the standardisation of certain station amenities for third class passengers such as waiting halls, bathing facilities, improved latrine accommodation, better booking facilities, covering, lengthening and raising of platforms, foot overbridges etc. is intended. Long range plans have been formulated to effect an improvement in the water supply in all coaches. For immediate purposes, arrangements have been made for the more frequent filling of water tanks.

The question of the provision of sleeping accommodation for a considerable percentage of third class passengers and of a larger number and better designed lavatories in coaches is under consideration in the Railway Board's post-war coach design. A new method of meeting the additional electric load which would be involved if fans are provided in third class coaches is also under close examination of the Railway Board, but no decision has yet been reached.

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF MESSAGE RATE SYSTEM FOR TELEPHONE CHARGES IN KARACHI, AHMEDABAD AND BOMBAY

250. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to introduce a Message Rate System of charges for telephones in Karachi, Ahmedabad and Bombay?

(b) If so, is it proposed to charge six pice per call besides a fixed monthly rental of Rs 12/-?

(c) Are Government aware that the proposal as envisaged by Government will affect very harshly on the business community who in this age of speed and long-distances, conduct their business on telephone and as such, will have to pay many times more than what they are paying at present?

(d) Are Government aware that the proposed measure has been adversely criticised by the business community who have expressed themselves strongly against it?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) Yes

(b) The fixed monthly rental will be Rs 8 and the message rate one anna per call. These rates are exclusive of surcharges

(c) No, the payment will be commensurate with the extent to which the service is used

(d) Some commercial interests have expressed themselves against the change

COMPLAINTS re INEFFICIENCY OF TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN KARACHI

251. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there are constant complaints from telephone subscribers regarding inefficient telephone system in Karachi?

(b) Are Government aware that when telephones go out of order, it takes the management a number of days to put them in order, in spite of several requests and reminders to the Department?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to put a stop to this state of affairs?

(d) Will Government consider the proposal to grant rebate to such of the subscribers whose telephones remain out of order for more than twenty-four hours?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) Government are not aware of any abnormal number of complaints regarding the Karachi telephone system

(b) No, all interruptions and complaints are attended to as promptly as possible

(c) Steps have already been taken to improve the efficiency of the telephone systems which unavoidably deteriorated owing to conditions created by war

(d) No

BACKWARD CONDITIONS IN ISTIMRARI AREAS OF AJMER-MERWARA

252. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state if Government are aware of the backward conditions prevailing in the Istimrari areas of Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) Before a regular enactment on the subject is brought into force, do Government propose to introduce any interim relief to the agriculturist in Ajmer-Merwara from forced labour, unjustified lags, and unwarranted ejectments at the sweet will of the Istimrardars? If so, what is the shape of the interim relief?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: (a) Government are aware of the fact that the tenants in Istimrari areas do not enjoy legal security of tenure. It is however reported that both as a matter of policy and custom it is not usual for an Istimrardar to disturb tenants of long standing. Moreover discretion is always exercised in the matter of ejectment by the Revenue Officers in favour of the tenant

(b) Government have appointed an officer to prepare draft tenancy legislation. As he will not take very long over this work, no interim measures are considered necessary

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY DOMESTICATED WILD BOARS KEPT BY ISTIMRARDARS OF AJMER-MERWARA

253. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state if Government are aware of the practice prevailing among the Istimrardars of Ajmer-Merwara, who domesticate wild boars for sport and luxury-food, and feed them on the cultivator's standing crops, and that a fine of Rs 51 and other punishment are imposed upon any cultivator who hurts or strikes these pet boars?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps for the discontinuance of these practices? If so, what?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) So far as can be ascertained three Istimrardars of Ajmer-Merwara possess preserves of wild boars. These boars sometimes break out of their enclosures and cause damage in neighbouring fields. While the Istimrardar prohibits the hurting or striking of the animals within the preserve, no such prohibition is binding on any villager in respect of an animal which causes damage to his field nor is he liable to be punished by the Istimrardar for doing so.

(b) Government will look into the matter further and decide what steps should be taken.

ABOLITION OF ZAMINDARI, JAGIRDARI AND ISTIMRARI SYSTEMS IN AJMER-MERWARA AND OTHER CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

254. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state if Government propose to abolish Zamindari, Jagirdari and Istimrari systems in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara and other Centrally Administered Areas? If so, do Government propose to set up a non-official Committee to collect all requisite data and information and to submit a report as to how, when and on what terms such abolition can be given effect to?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: An officer has been appointed recently for Ajmer-Merwara to draft suitable tenancy legislation and collect the requisite data and information. The question of appointing a Committee for Ajmer will be considered after his report is received. Conditions in other Centrally Administered areas differ considerably, and the case of each will be examined separately by Government in consultation with the administrations concerned.

EXTREME SHORTAGE OF SUGAR QUOTA FOR RURAL POPULATION OF AJMER-MERWARA

255. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Secretary of the Food Department aware of the extreme shortage of sugar in the rural population of Ajmer-Merwara, and is it a fact that the quota allotted to rural areas hardly comes to one chhatak per family per month, as contrasted with twelve chhataks per head in the urban areas?

(b) Are Government aware that the major share of this quantity of sugar allotted to the rural area is being taken by Government officials in the Police Departments located there by the Istimrardars, Jagirdars and their staff and that the common villagers get nothing?

(c) Do Government propose to increase the quota of sugar allotted in order that the rural population also may have its due share?

Mr. B. B. Sen: (a) There is an acute shortage of sugar in Ajmer-Merwara as in the rest of the country. The sugar ration in the urban areas is three chhataks per week. As sugar rationing has not been introduced in rural areas the monthly quantity sold to each family in the rural areas cannot be stated.

(b) In distributing the quantity allotted to the rural areas, the normal consumers are given preference.

(c) In the pre-war days factory sugar was consumed almost wholly by the urban population. During the war years the production of sugar has fallen by 20 per cent. So long as production does not improve there does not appear to be any prospect of allocating increased quantities of factory sugar to Ajmer-Merwara for rural areas.

SUPPLY OF GUR FOR RURAL AREAS OF AJMER-MERWARA DURING LAST SIX MONTHS

256. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state what quantity of Gur has been released for supply in rural area of Ajmer-Merwara during the last six months?

(b) Is it a fact that there is acute shortage of Gur in the rural population of Ajmer-Merwara?

(c) What check, if any, is placed on the importers of Gur in rural areas to see that the same is released only to the consumers? What precautions, if any, Government contemplate to take in future to see that Gur is supplied to the *bona fide* consumers only and that it does not go into Black Market?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The quantity of Gur allotted to the rural area of Ajmer sub-division during the last six months was about 7,000 maunds. Similar information for other rural areas of Ajmer-Merwara is not readily available.

(b) Supplies of Gur in rural areas are reported to be inadequate.

(c) To ensure proper distribution of Gur importers have been asked to sell only to approved retail dealers on permits issued by the Sub-Divisional Officers. Detailed distribution is at present supervised by the revenue staff but elected primarily panchayats at Rural Distributing Centres are being formed for proper distribution to *bona fide* consumers.

PROVISION OF ELECTRIC FANS IN THIRD CLASS COACHES ON GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

257 *Mr. P. K. Salve: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government propose to provide electric fans for the third class coaches on all Government Railways?

(b) Do Government propose also to provide cushions in the third class coaches for the comfort of the passengers?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have purchased a large number of electric fans from the military? If so, will they inform the Assembly for what purpose these fans will be used?

(d) Do Government propose to make arrangements for drinking water supply in the third class coaches by water-taps?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Government are considering the practicability of installing fans in III class carriages but a final decision has not yet been taken.

(b) Provision of cushions in III class coaches is not contemplated.

(c) Railways have purchased 99 desk fans and 1,990 ceiling fans from the Director-General of Disposals. These fans are for use in railway offices and station buildings.

(d) It is the intention to provide a small alcove in compartments with a water tap but this will be for washing purposes only.

CANCELLATION OF NAGPUR-BOMBAY EXPRESS TRAINS

258. *Mr. P. K. Salve: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the public by cancelling the Nagpur—Bombay Express trains which used to run between these Stations? If so, do Government propose to resume this train service?

(b) Are Government proposing to run Mail trains direct between Madras and Delhi via Nagpur? If so, from what date? Are Government aware that only one train *via* the Grand Trunk Express, runs at present between these stations? Are they aware that this single train is not enough to cope with the heavy passenger traffic between these stations?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to parts (d) and (g) of Mr Gole's Starred Question No 115, on the 31st October, 1946.

(b) Government are aware that the only direct train between Delhi and Madras via Nagpur is the Grand Trunk Express and that, under present conditions, this train is frequently overcrowded on certain sections of the journey. Some time ago, a proposal was initiated by the Railway Board for a bi-weekly mail train between Delhi and Madras, but due to a shortage of rolling stock further consideration of the proposal had to be deferred. The matter will again be reviewed towards the end of the year but, meantime, it is not possible to indicate a definite date by which the additional service is likely to be inaugurated.

INCONVENIENCES EXISTING IN THIRD CLASS WAITING ROOMS ON DIFFERENT RAILWAYS

259. *Mr. P. K. Salve: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government are aware of the several inconveniences existing in the Third Class Waiting Rooms on different Railways, such as dirt, lack of good bathing and latrine arrangements and absence of clean food services? If so, do Government propose to take steps to remedy them at an early date?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes. The question of cleanliness and sanitation of station premises has been receiving the special attention of the Railway Board for some time. With a view to promoting a healthy spirit of rivalry among the station staff in this important matter, a Competition scheme has been started which provides for awards of trophies and monetary prizes to the staff of stations which are judged to be the cleanest and tidiest throughout the year.

Government have every intention of extending and improving arrangements for latrines, bathing and accommodation generally at stations as early as possible and in this connection, have laid down certain minimum standards based on the number of passengers normally catered for to ensure that adequate amenities are made available to the travelling public.

Every effort is being made to improve the quality of food served to passengers by arranging periodical medical inspections. Members of Railway Local Advisory Committees have also been invited to make occasional tours on the railways, and offer suggestions for improvement.

RUNNING OF MILITARY SPECIAL TRAINS

260. *Mr. P. K. Salve: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the number of military special trains which are still allowed to run at present? Are Government aware that several coaches on these trains are found empty of passengers?

(b) How many passenger coaches first, second and third class, are still with the military for their exclusive use? When are they likely to be returned for the use of the civil traffic?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The latest figures available are for the month of September 1946. These figures show that the total number of Military Personnel Special trains run during that month was 517.

These special trains are divided into two categories as follows —

(i) Military Mail trains which run at regular intervals between specific stations carrying Service personnel travelling on leave or duty as individuals or small parties,

(ii) Military Special trains which are run as required for large parties of Service personnel.

The number of Military Mail and Military Special trains, respectively, run during September 1946, were Military Mail trains—421, Military Special trains—96 (Total—517).

Government are not aware that several coaches on these trains run empty, but it has been brought to their notice that Military Mail's and Specials do at

times have some vacant seats. The Railway Board are constantly pressing the Defence Department to release stock handed over to them at a quicker rate than is occurring at present. The Railway Board have also asked that Military Maile should be made available to civilian traffic, but at the time when this question was put to them the Defence Department were unable to agree to such a course.

(b) On the 1st November 1946 the number of different classes of coaching vehicles still with the Military for their exclusive use were

1st and 2nd class bogie composite carriages	115
3rd class bogie carriages	548
3rd class and luggage bogie composite carriages	82
3rd class 4-wheeled carriages	46
Total	791

Since the cessation of hostilities, the Defence Department have been releasing rolling stock from time to time as it becomes surplus to military requirements and these releases continue. The Railway Board also is keeping in close touch with the Movements Directorate with a view to obtaining release of coaching stock to the greatest extent possible. It cannot be said at present, however, when all the stock at present in use by the Defence Department will be returned for Civil use, although it is hoped that the greater part of it will be returned by 31st March 1947.

ENLARGEMENT OF APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF FEDERAL COURT

261. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state.

(a) whether Government propose to enlarge the appellate jurisdiction of the Federal Court and confer thereon supplemental powers to enable the said Court to hear all the appeals which are at present heard by the Privy Council, and

(b) whether Government propose to abolish the system of appeals to the Privy Council as it involves heavy expenditure and takes a very long time?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: (a) and (b) The Honourable Member will recollect that the proposals published with the Legislative Department Resolution No F 209/41 C & G (Judicial), dated the 15th January, 1945, included a proposal that sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 208 of the Constitution Act should be brought into force to the exclusion of sub-section (2) thereof with the effect of empowering the Indian Legislature to vest the Federal Court with a civil appellate jurisdiction concurrent with that of the Privy Council and of leaving the choice of the forum of appeal to the option of the party to whom a right of appeal had accrued. The large volume of opinion elicited by the publication of the proposals clearly established that there was no general support either for this proposal in its original form or for the more far reaching proposal embodied in part (b) of the question. In these circumstances the Resolution of which the late Law Member gave notice in the course of the Budget Session recommended that the question should not be pursued. The present Government do not propose to reopen the matter which is linked with the question of the creation of a Supreme Court for India on which the attitude of Government was explained in the reply to Mr. Sanval's Starred Question No 138 of the 31st October, 1946.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BASED ON DRAFT HINDU CODE

262 *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state whether Government propose to take early steps to introduce legislation based on Hindu Code, in the Legislative Assembly?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the draft Hindu Code prepared by the Hindu Law Committee. On this assumption, Government must obviously await the receipt

of the Committee's report before considering their course of action. They understand that the report is likely to reach them before the end of the current month.

FORMATION OF ALL-INDIA BAR COUNCIL UNDER FEDERAL COURT

263. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state whether Government propose to take steps for the formation of an All-India Bar Council under the Federal Court with powers to regulate and supervise the legal profession throughout the country?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: I have nothing to add to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 4, of the 28th October, 1946, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

STATEMENT RE INDUSTRIES TO BE PLANNED AND DEVELOPED

264. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please lay on the table of the House a statement giving the lists of industries which are to be planned and developed (i) by the State, (ii) under the State control and supervision, and (iii) through private enterprise?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 7 of the Statement of Government's Industrial Policy issued in April 1945 which sets forth broadly the limits of State participation in industrial enterprise.

Government have not yet come to any conclusion as to the respective spheres of State and private enterprise in regard to industries.

LOCATION OF BASIC AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES IN PROVINCES

265. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state

(a) whether Government propose to consider the location of basic and medium industries in different Provinces; and

(b) if so, which of such industries are to be located in the Northern Districts of the Central Province, i.e. the Nerbudda and Chattisgarh territories?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) In respect of all industries for which targets of total production have been framed, regional quotas of production have been (and will be) allotted, wherever possible, after taking into account the availability of raw materials, nearness to markets, etc.

(b) One Textile Mill has so far been allotted to the Nerbudda area.

ACTION ON RESOLUTION re RESERVATION OF MILL YARN FOR USE OF HAND-LOOMS

266. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state what action has so far been taken by Government to implement the resolution passed by the Assembly in the last budget session recommending that 33 1/3 of the mill yarn produced in this country should be reserved for use of handlooms? On what occasions have Government considered the implementation of the resolution, and with what results?

(b) What is the present position with regard to supply of mill yarn to handloom weavers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Regarding the first part of the question, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to my predecessor's answer to Unstarred Question No. 12, asked by Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanjal on 29th October, 1946. Regarding the second part of this part of the question, Government considered the desire expressed in this resolution at the time they were formulating their decision on the Report of the Post-war Planning Committee (Textiles). As a result Government decided that all Provinces should leave at least 25 per cent of their new spindage uncovered by looms in order that the yarn in question might be available for handloom weavers.

(b) At present handloom weavers are getting roughly one-fourth of the total yarn produced in India, or about 90,000 bales a month.

INCREASED SUPPLY OF LOCAL YARN TO WEAVERS IN MADRAS PROVINCE

267. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that the Madras Government has admitted that the yarn now supplied to handloom weavers is enough to provide employment for a week in the month and also that widespread unemployment prevails among the 25 lakhs of handloom weavers in the Madras Province?

(b) When was the All-India Yarn Distribution Scheme last reviewed, and when is it due for further review?

(c) Do Government propose to review it at the earliest opportunity in order to stop the export of yarn from Madras and increase the supply of local yarn to local weavers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Government of India are not aware of any statement made by the Madras Government to the effect that yarn supplied to handloom weavers is enough to provide employment for only one week in the month. On the contrary, a memorandum drawn up by the Honourable Member himself in March 1946 stated that weavers were finding employment for about 10-15 days a month. I imagine that the estimate made by the Honourable Member is probably about correct, i.e., that handloom weavers in Madras are employed on an average about half the month.

(b) The principle of the Scheme is to allot to each consuming area a roughly equal percentage of what Government estimate to be its requirements. The principle of the scheme is not subject to review, but the estimates of the requirements of consuming areas are continually under review.

(c) Government do not propose to stop export of yarn from Madras as suggested by the Honourable Member. Madras produces more yarn than her quota entitles her to, and any stoppage of exports would be at the expense of weavers of other provinces. Under any all-India distribution scheme she must export the excess over her fair share of production. I take it the Honourable Member would not suggest similar stoppage of exports in respect of say, food-grains.

RECONSTRUCTION OF ALL-INDIA HANDLOOM BOARD

268. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state when the reconstitution of the All-India Handloom Board is due?

(b) Have Government come to any decision regarding the requests of the All-India Handloom Weavers' Congress, the Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers' Congress and Provincial Weavers' Congresses of Central Province and Bombay for representation on that Board?

(c) Do Government propose to accord recognition to the Weavers' Congresses referred to above and invite them to send their representatives to the All-India Handloom Board?

(d) Is it a fact that the Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers' Congress has suggested to Government that the President of the All-India Handloom Board should be a Non-official representing the Handloom Weavers and that the quota of representation allotted to handloom weavers should be increased? Do Government propose to give effect to those suggestions when the Board is next reconstituted?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The formal letters of appointment of members of the All-India Handloom Board were issued, with the exception of one official member, in June 1945. These members were appointed to hold office for one year in the first instance. In May 1946 the Government of India wrote to Provinces suggesting that the Board should be reconstituted on an organisational basis, that is to say that members should be nominated by various handloom organisations rather than by Provincial Governments. Most of the Provincial Governments have not yet replied to the Government of India's

letter In the meantime the Handloom Board is carrying on with its present personnel

(b) Not yet, in view of the fact that the Central Government are still awaiting replies from Provincial Governments

(c) This matter will be decided when we have received replies from Provincial Governments

(d) As regards the first part of the question, the answer is in the affirmative. As regards the second part of the question, a decision on this point cannot be taken until we hear from Provincial Governments

REPRESENTATIONS BY THE WEAVERS' CONGRESSES

269. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether Government have given any consideration to the representations of the deputations of the Weavers' Congresses that have met the Members during the last year?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir. The deputations were led by the Honourable Member himself, and the points which they made were as follows:

(a) The numbers of handlooms throughout India shown in the Fact-Finding Committee's Report, published in 1942, are out of date

(b) Handloom weavers should be given more yarn

(c) The controlled prices of yarn and dyes should be reduced

(d) Yarn should be distributed in Provinces through co-operative organisations

(e) The Resolution passed by this House in February 1946, to the effect that mills should be compelled to release at least one-third of their yarn to handloom weavers, should be implemented by Government

(f) Interchange of handloom goods between Provinces should be permitted

(g) More dyes and chemicals should be made available to handloom weavers

(h) The All-India Handloom Board should be made more representative

The views of and action taken by Government on these suggestions are as follows:

(a) and (b) It is quite correct that the number of handlooms in action throughout India has increased since the Fact-Finding Committee made their enquiry. This is mainly due to the fact that since then a cloth shortage has developed and the Government of India do not control the prices of handloom cloth, in consequence, large number of handlooms which were not used in peacetime are now in operation. A large number of looms which used to weave silk and rayon yarn have also shifted over to cotton weaving for lack of these yarns. The Government of India have obtained up-to-date figures of the number of handlooms now in operation on cotton yarn, and make allowances accordingly in their yarn distribution scheme. The Government of India make as much yarn available for handloom weavers as is possible. In fact, the supplies of yarn now made to handloom weavers all over India come to something like 90,000 bales a month, as against less than 70,000 bales a month consumed by them in the years immediately prior to the outbreak of war.

(c) The controlled prices of the finer counts of yarn have been further reduced this year, but Government found it necessary, mainly owing to the increased price of Indian cotton, to increase slightly the controlled prices of the coarser counts of yarn. The controlled prices of dyes have been reduced this year.

(d) The manner in which yarn is distributed within a Province is a matter for the Provincial Government concerned. According to the Government of India's information, yarn is distributed through co-operative organisations in Madras, Bihar, Bombay, Bengal and the U. P.

(e) This point has already formed the subject of a separate reply.

(f) Interchange of handloom goods between Provinces is now permitted.

(g) Imports of dyes and chemicals are still only about 50 per cent of India's requirements. The Raw Materials Committee of the All-India Handloom Board advise the Textile Commissioner on supplies to the handloom industry, and all that is possible is done for the industry.

(h) This point is the subject of a separate question put by the Honourable Member.

SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO WASHINGTON WORLD FOOD BOARD COMMISSION
 . 270. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state

(a) on what basis the Delegation to the Washington World Food Board Commission was selected,

(b) why an official was chosen as an alternative to the delegate,

(c) why a representative of the Reserve Bank of India was not included although a representative of the World Bank and Monetary Fund was being invited to Washington,

(d) why no representation was given to the Federation of Rural peoples organisations, and

(e) whether any scheme was prepared or is being prepared by the Government of India to be submitted to this Commission?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The delegation to the preparatory Commission for examining the question of the establishment of a World Food Board was selected on the basis of the qualifications required. The delegation had to consist of responsible and experienced representatives assisted by eminent and expert technical advisers.

(b) Because he was considered to be the most suitable person for the purpose in view of his experience in matters relating to India's food problems.

(c) The Reserve Bank authorities were unable to spare a suitable officer. The question is however being further examined in consultation with the Finance Department.

(d) A representative of agriculturists was included in the delegation who has made a special study of the questions that are likely to come up before the Commission.

(e) The Preparatory Commission will itself prepare the scheme. The Indian Delegation has however been suitably briefed as regards the attitude to be adopted by them. A copy of the brief is laid on the table.

Memorandum on the attitude to be taken by the Indian Delegation at the Preparatory Commission

The Indian Government accept the general objectives of the Director General's proposals for the World Food Board as summarised in the report of Committee I of Commission (C) of the Copenhagen Conference, viz.,

(a) developing and organising production, distribution and utilisation of the basic foods to provide diets on a health standard for the peoples of all countries, and

(b) stabilising agricultural prices at levels fair to producers and consumers alike.

The Indian Government would also like to lay stress on another objective mentioned in the Director General's proposals, viz., the establishment of food reserves adequate for any emergency that might arise due to failure of crops in any part of the world. With the experience India has had of the difficulties in acquiring supplies during her recent periods of shortages, the Indian Government is particularly anxious that there should be established a World Reserve which can be freely drawn upon by countries in need and which will be so located that difficulties of procurement and transport would be the minimum.

2. The Government of India also agree that the achievement of these objectives requires the establishment of appropriate international machinery with the necessary powers and funds. The officers of such a body may be located in different regions according to the commodity concerned. Since the meeting of the FAO Conference at Copenhagen, Government have had time to examine this question. It is accepted that without an international machinery these objectives cannot be achieved. The Government do not propose at this

time to commit themselves to the acceptance of any particular type of organisation nor will they do until they have before them a complete picture which, presumably, will be available at the end of deliberations of the Preparatory Commission. In the meanwhile, the Indian Delegation will take full part in the discussions of the Preparatory Commission and will make every effort to secure the evolution of a machinery which will effectively achieve the objectives mentioned in the Director General's proposal.

3 The Indian Delegation should emphasise the enormity of the problem that confronts India, if she is to raise the consumption levels of her people to a nutritionally-desired standard, within a measurable distance of time. Some indication of the increases in production required in various types of foods has been given in the Government's statement of policy on food and Agriculture. Normally, India pays for her imports of industrial machinery and finished products by her exports of raw materials. The post war development plans of India include large scale industrialisation which will require correspondingly increased imports of machinery and accessories. If at the same time India has to increase her imports of foodgrains by many million tons every year to maintain her consumption levels, she will obviously be unable to pay her way. It is clear that India will have to depend largely on her own efforts, and increase her own domestic supplies if she is to be in a position to raise the consumption levels of her people. In this task, India could legitimately ask for the support of the World Food Board in obtaining machinery and fertilisers and such technical services as are required for the expansion of agricultural production, as well as equipment for the manufacture of such machinery and fertilisers and technical advice for running the same. In view of the enormity of the supply problem in India and impossibility of its being met, to any substantial extent, by imports, India would be entitled to ask for priority of allocation on the world supplies of farm machinery and fertilisers, and equipment for manufacturing the same. She should also incidentally make it perfectly clear that it will not be possible for India to accept any limitations on a policy of expansion of agricultural production in India and if the point arises it may be made clear that this includes the right to encourage production by giving production subsidies. It may be that costs of production of certain agricultural commodities may be higher in India than they are in some other countries. But this difference in costs is likely to diminish with the application of science and modern methods to Indian agriculture. In any case looking to the difficulty of India's financing large imports, the difficulty of finding alternative employment for the large number of her population employed in agriculture, and the difficulty of getting full employment and of increasing purchasing power within the country without adequate agricultural development Government is convinced of the need for evolving a determined policy of expanding agricultural production within the country, and they trust that, in doing this, they will receive the full co-operation of the World Food Board.

4 A policy of maximising production will obviously depend for its effectiveness both on the adequacy and the stability of the prices payable to the producers. As regards stabilisation Government of India have been thinking, for some time past, of inaugurating a policy of price stabilisation in their own country, and they welcome this attempt at world stabilisation of agricultural prices.

They trust that the world buffer stocks would be available as a complement to the country's own buffer stocks and help to make more effective price control operations within India.

Presumably the prices which the World Food Board will be stabilising will be those referred to by the Economic Committee as Class I international prices. It must, however, be made clear that owing to differences in economic conditions it would not be possible to have parity of internal prices with the international prices. In the long run, no doubt, internal prices in any one country will have to be linked fairly closely to international prices particularly if there is going to be stabilisation. But there will have to be a transitional period during which every attempt will be made to increase the efficiency of Indian agriculture and lower the cost of production per unit. During this transitional period, the length of which can not be defined at this moment, it will be necessary for the Government of India to have freedom to have internal price brackets that may be significantly at variance with the international price brackets that may be determined by the World Food Board. There is no reason why these exporting countries should be put in a position to make excessive profits simply because the Indian peasants must for the sake of his standard of living, be allowed for the time being higher prices.

International prices for the chief exporting countries should therefore be calculated on basis of allowing them reasonable profits on their costs and not on the basis of the internal Indian Prices.

Government however, will be willing to co-operate with the price operations of the World Food Board in so far as its own international transactions are concerned, and abide by the World Price brackets. In other words they will be willing to see that their export and import prices are within the brackets set out by the World Food Board. It will also be necessary to evolve some technique for dealing with a situation in which internal prices and international prices differ. In this connection the feasibility of canalising trade in food between countries through Government channels or Commodity corporations as also the practicability of instituting the necessary control over distribution and profits in the food trade may be explored. In any case, Government of India must reserve to

itself the right to see that the operations of this world food reserve do not materially affect the internal price structure to the detriment of the Indian peasant

5 The Government of India welcome the proposal that some supplies of food should be made available to needy countries at Class II prices. In fact, it would not be possible for India to finance that volume of imports which the nutritional considerations involved even on a very modest scale, would still require. India has to look to the World Food Board for making available supplies of certain important foodgrains and foodstuffs at concessional (class II) prices, so that this could be used in conjunction with national supplies for wider schemes of food distribution within the country, specifically from the point of view of meeting the requirements of the vulnerable sections of the community. Government would willingly lay down appropriate safeguards on the utilisation of such imports, in order that it may not affect adversely the interests of either foreign or domestic producers, and, at the same time, will be used in such a manner as to meet the requirements of those most in need in the country from the point of view of their vulnerable status or their low purchasing power. This kind of requirement of import at concessional prices would not be a permanent requirement but would only be needed as a transitional measure to help the country to raise its standards of consumption during the transitional period, when every effort will be made in India, on the one hand, to increase its own domestic output of agricultural produce and on the other, to further the economic development of the country, and thereby increase its capacity to finance all its import requirements at international (class I) prices.

6 As regards the question of an Emergency Reserve, it has been estimated that a reserve of not less than 2 million tons of cereals will be required by India in order to control prices and face shortages. We would like the World Food Board to hold as much of this 2 million tons as possible provided it is located in India, and allotments made to India are treated as a first charge on such reserves. Government have not yet decided what quantity they should hold themselves as an absolute reserve, but will take a decision on this question after they have obtained a comprehensive picture of the size of the World Food Board stocks, its location and composition and the terms and conditions on which Member countries could draw upon these stocks to meet their requirements.

7 As regards the structure and constitution of the World Food Board, it need hardly be said that India should have an effective representation in all the Executive Bodies of this Organisation and be in a position effectively to influence decisions regarding production, distribution, utilisation, price fixation and operation of emergency and buffer stocks. As regards the financing, every attempt should be made to see that India is not made to pay an unduly large share of the finances capital and operating of the new Organisation. As the benefit of stabilisation of international prices will largely accrue to the exporting countries it is not fair that they should be asked to pay a larger share of the cost involved.

8 The above represents a general indication of the Government of India's views on the problems that will come up for discussion before the World Food Board. Government are anxious to see that the proposed World Food Board would serve India's interests in the following manner:

- (1) help to secure concrete facilities for expanding agricultural production in India,
- (2) help to provide India with grain during periods of shortage,
- (3) help to secure imports of certain foodgrains and foodstuffs at concessional prices for specified schemes of distribution to the vulnerable groups in India,
- (4) help to provide the kind of insurance they have themselves been contemplating in pursuance of their own policy of internal price stabilisation and maintenance of reserve stocks.

9 It is expected that the Delegation will try their best to see that in the constitution, structure and functions of the World Food Board, the fulfilment of these objectives is borne in mind.

PERCENTAGE RISE IN PRICE OF SUGAR AND SUGAR-CANE

271. *Prof N G. Ranga: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

- (a) if the price of sugar has been raised, and if so, when and by what percentage,
- (b) whether the price of sugar-cane has been correspondingly raised, and if so, by what percentage, and if not, why not,
- (c) whether Government are aware of the Madras Government's move to control prices of jaggery (gur), and whether it is in consonance with any All-India Policy laid down by the Government of India, and
- (d) whether it is the intention of Government to discourage the production of sugar-cane and gur, if not, why do Government impose controls over the prices of gur and thus bring down these prices?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a), (b) and (d) The ex-factory price of sugar is fixed by the Government of India in relation to the price of sugar-cane supplied to factories, which is fixed by the Provincial Governments. The Government of India in consultation with the Provincial Governments has recently enhanced the ex-factory price of sugar by approximately 26 per cent. Their object is to enable Provincial Governments to fix a correspondingly enhanced price for sugar-cane in order to encourage its cultivation with due regard to India's needs for both sugar and other foodstuffs. The increase in the price of sugar-cane is likely to be about 33 per cent.

(c) Yes, Sir. The object of gur control is to secure that both sugar and gur are produced and distributed at prices equitable to producers and consumers.

PUBLICATION OF DECISIONS OF INCOME-TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

272. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Is the Honourable the Law Member aware that on account of the provisions of section 54 (i) of the Income Tax Act, the decisions of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal cannot be published and are therefore not available to the assesses for citation or reference?

(b) What steps does he propose to take to help the assesses to know the Tax Law as interpreted by the Appellate Tribunal?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: (a) Yes.

(b) A decision by the Tribunal which involves a question of law of any importance is almost invariably made the subject of a reference to a High Court under section 66 of the Act, and the Tribunal's statement of the case which indicates the rationale of its own decision is habitually included in the report of the High Court's judgment in the series known as Income-tax Reports. In these circumstances Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by permitting the publication of decisions of the Tribunal as such, or that any other action is required.

BY-PRODUCTS OF COAL

273. *Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the by-products of coal that have been undertaken in India (i) before the last Great War, (ii) during the last Great War, and (iii) after the last Great War,

(b) what other important and valuable by-products can and should be undertaken forthwith,

(c) what steps are being taken by the present Government so that the existing opportunities for the manufacture of by-products are not wasted and that the collieries are obliged and helped in undertaking industrially and commercially useful by-products immediately, and

(d) whether Government are consulting scientists and experts in such matter and whether they are taking the assistance of the Indian Science Congress?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Before the war, the by-products obtained from coal consisted of coal-tar, coal gas and ammonia. Coal-tar was distilled in the main to obtain road tars, creosotes, disinfectants and pitch. During the war the following additional products were extracted from coal-tar: Naphthalene, Phenol, Cresolic acid, and small quantities of tar bases such as pyridine.

Two large recovery plants were set up by the Government at the Steel Works at Jamshedpur and Hirapur for the recovery of Benzene and Toluene from the coke oven gas.

No other by-products have been manufactured in appreciable quantities since the termination of the war.

(b) From the primary products of coal distillation such as benzene, toluene, phenol, naphthalene, etc., a large number of intermediates and synthetic products can be obtained. These chemicals are of great importance as drugs, anti-septics, dyes, solvents, photographic chemicals and perfumes, and for the

manufacture of explosives, synthetic resins, etc. The manufacture of intermediates and synthetic products from the primary coal-tar products, has not yet been developed in the country. The Panel on Fine Chemicals, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals set up by the late Planning and Development Department has dealt with these problems. The report of the Panel has recently been received.

(c) These suggestions will receive consideration when the recommendations of the Panel are examined.

(d) The Government is in close touch with scientists and experts. Through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, it is establishing a Fuel Research Institute at Digwadih—Dhanbad for advice and research on the problems and similar matters connected with the uses of fuel. They have also set up several Advisory Committees on which members of the industry and prominent scientists are represented. The Indian Science Congress is not a research body but essentially an association of scientists. Many of the senior staff of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are members and close contact is maintained between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Indian Science Congress.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PRIORITY OF CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAILWAY LINES

36. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place on the table of the House a list of the new Railway lines, construction of which is expected to be undertaken within a year, in different parts of the country?

(b) What considerations have determined the order of priority of the different new Railway lines that are proposed to be constructed during the next five years? Will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House a list of projected lines according to the period in which they are proposed to be constructed respectively?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) A statement showing the list of projected lines under investigation and for which survey reports have been received, has been laid on the table. Out of the lines under investigation, survey reports of nine projects have recently been received and are under scrutiny. Sanction has since been given for (i) the construction by the North Western Railway in the Punjab of a new line between Rupn and Talaura (34 miles in length) and (ii) restoration in the United Provinces by the G. I. P. Railway of Bhimsen-Kharada line dismantled during the war (81 miles in length).

It is not possible to state what further constructions will be taken in hand this year until a detailed examination of the engineering and traffic survey reports so far received has been completed.

(b) Provincial Governments have given a certain order of priority for carrying out survey investigations of projected lines, and this order of priority is generally followed by railways in carrying out the surveys.

When the survey reports of projected lines are received and scrutinised, it will be possible to determine which of these lines are likely to prove commercially remunerative or otherwise. The construction of remunerative lines would be undertaken first, and as regards the unremunerative lines, negotiations will be opened with the Provincial Governments for financing these lines. This policy of financing is based on the following two fundamental principles.

(i) The Railway Department and the Provincial Governments should share both the capital expenditure and the earnings.

or (ii) On the basis of their estimate of net earnings, the Railway Department should work out the limit of capital expenditure which they would be prepared to incur without involving themselves in any loss after an initial period of five years from the opening of the line to traffic and the Provincial Government should make a contribution equal to the difference between such expenditure and the estimated expenditure on the construction of the line.

List of approved projects—New constructions, restorations and Conversions

NOTE—*The projects for which survey estimates have been sanctioned are marked with an asterisk

**The projects for which survey reports have been received are marked with two asterisks

***The projects for which constructions have been sanctioned are marked with three asterisks.

	Approx Mileages	The proposed gauge
EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS		
(a) Dismantled lines to be restored—		
1 Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau	78*	B G
2 Bijoor-Chandpur-Siau	21*	B G
3 Utratta Sultanpur-Zafarabad	136*	B G
(b) New lines—		
1 Kicha Chandausi	65*	B G
2 Birmitrapur-Barwadih	120*	B G
3 Chirmiri-Barwadih (Garhwa road or Untari road)	140*	B G
4 Barkagaon-Hazaribagh-Giridih-Dumka-Rampur Haut	225*	B G
5 Gaya-Sherghati-Chatra Ranchi	110*	B G
BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY		
(a) Restoration of dismantled lines—		
1 Shaistaganj-Habiganj	8**	M G
2 Moranhat-Khowang	6	M G
3 Amnura Chapai Nawabganj	10	B G.
(b) New lines—		
1 Bahadurabad-Goalpara-Pandu with a bridge at Goalpara, Jogigopa and a link from the bridge to Bongaigaon, also Gouripur Mymensingh Mahendraganj	283**	M G,
2 Sylhet Bazar-Chatak	21*	M G
3 Khowang-Dibrugarh	12*	M G
4 Faridpur-Madaripur-Barisal	80*	B. G.
5 Santhia Barhampur-Bhairamara	76*	B G.
6 Rohanpur-Nithpur-Danapur	76*	B G
7 Jharia-Jhanyail-Baghmara-Siju-Jankarai	37*	M. G.,
(c) Conversion—		
1. Tezpur-Baligara to be converted from N.G. to M G	20	M G.
BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY		
(a) Dismantled lines to be restored—		
1. Bobbili-Salur	10	B. G.

	Approx Mileages	The proposed gauge
BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY—contd		
(b) New Lines—		
1 Ramagundam-Bastar-Jagdalpur-Jaypore Rayagada The portion between Ramagundam and Bailadila shall be surveyed by H E H. the Nizam Railway	290*	B G.
2 Raynandgaon (or Drug)-Bastar via Kankar and Taragon	120*	B G
3 Sambalpur-Kondagaon via Lochipur and Kantabanj	247*	B G.
4 Talchar (along the valley of Brahmani river)-Keel Bank	100	B G
5 Talbandh (or Bangr-pou)-Badampahar or (Sulpat or Bairangpur) including conversion of Rupsa- Talbandh to B. G	85	(including 70 miles of con- version) B. G
6 Khurda Road-Sonepur-Lochpur	128	B G.
7. Vishnupur-Santragsahi	68	B G
8 Contai Road-Contai-Tamluk-Kolaghat-Ghatal- Chandrakona	150	B G
9. Extension of Lohardaga to meet Barwadih-Birmatra- pur	23	B. G.
10 Naupada-Gunpur extension and conversion to B. G	27	B. G.
11. Gopalpur-Behrampur-Russelkonda	57	B. G.
12 Nomandi to Joda	16*	B G
(c) Conversion—		
1 Furuha to Lohardaga	116*	B G.
SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY		
(a) New Lines—		
1 Dindigul-Gudallur with restoration of Theni-Madura	76*	M G.
2 Kollingodo-Cochin Port	41*	M G.
3 Tanjore-Pattukottai	29*	M G.
4 Arantangi Karaikkudi	10*	M G.
M & S M RAILWAY		
(a) New Lines -		
1 Alnavar Halayal-Yellapur Karwar	70	M G.
2 Ellore-Saveri Valley	70	B. G.
G I. P RAILWAY		
(a) Dismantled lines to be restored—		
1. Cawnpore-Khairada	81***	B. G.

	Approx Mileages	The proposed gauge
G I P RAILWAY—contd		
(b) New lines—		
1 Dava Dasgaon	93*	B G
2 Mahmud-Nardhana	79*	B G
3 Belapur Road-Sheogaon	45*	B G
4 Baramati-Pandharpur	35	B G
5 Ahmedpur Sheogaon	45*	B G
6 Kurla-Karjat	35**	B G
7 Amraoti Naikher	79**	B G
B, B & C I RAILWAY		
(a) Dismantled lines to be Restored—		
1 Vasad Kathana	27**	B G
(b) New Lines—		
1 Bulsar-Dharanpur	17**	B G
2 Khandwa-Hingoli	169*	M G
3 Ajmer Kotah	100*	M G.
ODISHA RAILWAY		
(a) New Line,—		
1 Kaspur Kalagarh	30**	M G
2 Chakia-Alwal a Sikhwalia	27	M G
3 Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa	20*	M G
4 Murliganj Madhepura	13*	M G.
JODHPUR RAILWAY		
(a) New Line -		
1 Pithoro Kahi-Tando Mithakhan-Sanghar Jhol	62**	M G
NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY		
(a) Dismantled Lines to be restored—		
1 Nagrota-Jogindernagar	35*	N. G.
2 Rohtak-Panipat to Gohana	20	B G.
(b) New Lines—		
1 Havelan Garhi Habibullah	43*	B. G.
2 Charsadda-Mardan	17*	B G.
3 Peru-Dera Ismail Khan	40*	B G.

	Approx. Millions	The proposed gauge
NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY—contd		
(b) New Lines—		
4 Tando Mohd. Khan Moghalpura (Jati Taluka)	72*	B G
5 Badli-Gujrat (Bombay Smel)	268*	B G
6 Karachi-Kalat-Quetta	410*	B G
7 Peshawar-Kohat	40*	B G
8 Kohat-Bannu	80*	B G
9 Rupar-Talaura	37***	B G.
10 Khushab-Nurpur Darya Khan	70	B G
11 Kashmir-Dera Ghazi Khan	90	N. G
12 Jhang Multan	100	B G
13 Khwaja-Chakwal	40	B G
(c) Conversions—		
1 Mari Indus Banian and Marwa-Laki Marwat from N G to B G	158*	B G
2 Jacobabad-Kashmore from N G to B G	77*	B G.
3 Kohat-Thal	64*	B G.

MONEY SPENT ON IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN FINICAL

37. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state

(a) the amount of money that has been spent by the Government of India for irrigation projects in Bengal during the current financial year (including money already spent and to be spent),

(b) how many irrigation projects have already been undertaken or worked wholly or in part during the said financial year, and

(c) whether such irrigation projects are selected as parts of a bigger and long term planning or are merely taken up on individual merit?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) and (b) During the current financial year, the Central Government has sanctioned 14.32 lakhs in respect of 42 schemes of the Bengal Government for re-excavation and other improvements of water courses in Bengal. They are intended to increase irrigation facilities in certain cases to some extent but they are designed largely to improve drainage and thereby increase the yield of land. Information about the exact amount spent or proposed to be spent by the Provincial Government and the number of projects executed wholly or in part during the current financial year is not available and has been called for. In addition a grant of Rs 18.02 lakhs has been sanctioned this year in respect of schemes undertaken in previous years.

(c) These are *ad hoc* schemes undertaken by the Provincial Government with a view to increase food production under the Grow More Food Campaign and were taken up before the post-war development plans of the Province were drawn up.

SCARCITY OF MUSTARD OIL IN BENGAL

38. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government of India have considered the acute scarcity of mustard oil in Bengal and the sudden rise in its price,

(b) the reasons for such scarcity and for such rise in price, and

(c) what steps are being taken for making mustard oil available for the ordinary man and at reasonable rates?

Mr. B. E. Sen: (a) Yes

(b) Scarcity of mustard oil in Bengal is due to inadequate imports from U. P. and other areas in India.

The rise in prices is due to shortage of oil and lack of effective price control throughout India and particularly in the districts of Bengal. The fall in imports is due to increased consumption in producing areas due to greater purchasing power and shortage of ghee.

(c) The Government of India have after consulting the Provinces and States decided upon a policy of Co-ordinated control over prices and movement of edible oilseeds and oils in conformity with an All-India Basic Plan, and Provincial/States Governments have been advised to take immediate action to implement this policy. The export of mustard oil out of India has also been totally prohibited.

The Bengal Government have rationed mustard oil in Calcutta City.

SANTHIA-BHERAMARA RAILWAY PROJECT IN BENGAL

39. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) how much progress has been made in the project known as the Santhia Bheramara Railway in Bengal,

(b) the route of the proposed railway mentioning only important places through which the proposed line will pass

(c) the approximate time by which it is expected to run trains, and

(d) whether District Boards and District administrations connected with the places through which the proposed line will pass have been informed of the scheme?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) No progress has so far been made in the Project, Santhia-Bheramara Railway, in Bengal, as the survey investigations have only been taken in hand recently. The investigations could not be taken in hand earlier, as this project was given a low priority by the Local Government and attention was therefore, concentrated on higher priority projects.

(b) It is not possible at present to state, the route the proposed railway will take and the important places which it will pass through, or pass close by, till the surveys of this line, which are now in hand, are completed. The only important place that this route will connect is Berhampore.

(c) The construction of the line can only be considered after the survey reports are received and scrutinised. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage, to state when the line is likely to be constructed and when trains would run on the section.

(d) A notification was published in the *Gazette of India* on the 7th September, 1945, for the information of the public notifying that the Railway Board have sanctioned an engineering survey to be carried by the Agency of the B. A. Railway for a Broad Gauge line from Santhia to Bheramara via Berhampore a distance of about 98 miles. The Railway Administration concerned arranges a notification in the local Government Gazette in accordance with the terms of Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act.

The Standing Rules for the traffic survey provide that the survey officer in charge should consult local authorities and prominent citizens both as regards trade and industries and the most suitable route for the projected railway.

GRANT OF EXTENSIONS TO POSTMASTERS AND POSTAL CLERKS

40. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state how many head Post Offices are there in the Munsum Circle in United Provinces where Postmasters in selection grade are appointed?

(b) Is it a fact that recently the Post Office at Haldwani in the Naini Tal District was raised to the status equal to the status of those at Almorah, Ramikhet, etc.?

(c) Is it also a fact that a gentleman who had retired from service was appointed as Postmaster of that Post Office? If so, was no other man in service available for promotion to that post?

(d) What are the rules for the grant of extension to Postmasters and other postal clerks who have completed 55 years of age?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) Three

(b) Yes

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The latter part does not arise.

(d) The rule regarding the age of retirement of non-gazetted Postmasters and postal clerks is F R 50(b).

PHYSICAL FITNESS AND MENTAL FITNESS OF OFFICERS GRANTED EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE AS POSTMASTERS

41. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether Government are aware that even if an extension is granted on public interest, the official getting the extension must be physically and mentally fit to perform his duties?

(b) Is it a fact that the Postmaster posted at present at Ramikhet is disabled and is not physically fit to perform his duties?

(c) Is it a fact that he has been granted several extensions, and, if so, how many, and why?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to Fundamental Rule 56(b)(1). A copy of the Fundamental Rule is in the Library of the House.

(b) No. The official in question is in very good health although he uses an artificial leg. This is not considered as a disability for performance of his duties as a Postmaster.

(c) It is a fact that this official has been retained in service for three years after the age of 55.

EMBEZZLEMENT IN THE POST OFFICE AT PAURI (GARHWAL)

42. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether it is a fact that sometime ago there was a case of embezzlement in the Post Office at Pauri (Garhwal), and if so, what was the amount involved and what action, if any, has so far been taken in the matter?

Sir Harold Shoobert: No, a loss of Rs 100, however, occurred between Pauri and Pokhra Sub Office in May last. Police investigation is proceeding.

RELAXATION OF CONTROL ON BUILDING MATERIALS

43. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please refer to the Budget Speech made on the 28th February, 1946, by the then Finance Member in which proposals for assisting and stimulating private building activity were made, and special steps indicated as being taken

to increase allocations of coal for the burning of bricks and release of timber, cement and steel, and to relax controls over these materials and to extend production capacity, and lay on the table of the House a statement showing Province by Province, the progress made, or expected to be made in this matter during the year, as well as the nature of the action?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: Four statements showing the position in respect of the distribution of cement, timber, coal and iron & steel are laid on the table of the House

A statement about the existing and planned production of cement is also laid on the table

1—Statement showing percentage of Cement Supplies for Civil purposes against the total Cement production in India

Month	Total Cement Production	Cement Supplies for Civil Purposes	Percentage of Supplies for Civil Purposes to Total Production
1945	Tons	Tons	
January	1,81,521	82,137	45.2
February	1,81,021	72,530	40.1
March	2,10,625	1,26,854	60.2
April	1,89,245	95,345	50.3
May	1,81,887	93,509	51.4
June	1,81,121	98,745	54.8
July	1,76,644	1,15,079	65.1
August	1,83,268	1,06,809	58.2
September	1,77,312	1,23,777	69.8
October	1,62,219	1,30,988	80.7
November	1,64,235	1,37,165	83.5
December	1,75,148	1,51,747	86.4
1946			
January	1,47,496	1,41,457	95.9
February	1,49,192	1,49,793	100.0*
March	1,82,366	1,69,369	92.9
April	1,54,955	1,70,292	103.9*
May	1,69,473	1,47,083	86.8
June	1,50,187	1,29,805	86.4
July	1,62,227	1,53,857	94.8
August	1,67,936	1,66,401	97.9

*Note—The figures in this column include releases made from stocks.

II—Statement showing issues of Timber from Government stocks by Provinces

(Figures are in tons)

Province	Issues from January to August, 1946
Assam	15,990
Bengal	12,325
Bihar	15,620
Bombay and Dangs	45,460
Cochin	6,900
Coorg	210
Eastern States	16,030
Madras and Travancore	5,590
Mysore	610
N W F P	2,040
Orissa	12,320
Punjab	31,360
Total	<u>164,445</u>

III—Statement showing allocations and despatches of coal for brid burning during year 1945-46

	1945				1946			
	Allocations		Total	Despatches	Allocations		Total	Despatches
	Civil	Railways			Civil	Railways		
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
March	5,150	11,600	16,650	21,469	1,00,000	5,000	1,05,000	72,652
April	5,150	11,600	16,650	14,214	75,000		75,000	71,296
May	18,947	..	18,947	20,252	88,459		88,459	60,376
June	5,000		5,000	5,052	92,699		92,699	21,612
July	7,000		7,000	14,622	1,08,459		1,08,459	88,284
August	7,000	7,000	14,000	7,065	1,03,459		1,03,459	48,354
September	20,600	10,000	30,600	17,322	1,18,459		1,18,459	21,998
October	35,000	12,000	47,000	31,916	70,520		70,520	56,621
November	35,000	1,000	36,000		50,520	25,000	75,520	Not yet available
	1,38,247	53,000	1,91,247	1,34,912	8,07,515	30,000	8,37,515	4,41,193

IV—Iron and Steel

So far as steel is concerned control was relaxed with effect from 1st April 1946 so as to enable consumers to obtain their requirements in the open market. However there was considerable deterioration in the supply position owing to labour unrest in the works of some of the producers and to insufficiency of coal. Moreover the import position also deteriorated owing to similar difficulties in the U S A and Australia. As a result the control had to be re-imposed with effect from 1st September 1946. It is not possible to say how much steel was purchased for building purposes during this period in the various Provinces. Government are now engaged in devising a procedure for the distribution of Iron and Steel the object of which will be to ensure that whatever quantities of steel are available are distributed in an equitable manner with due regard to the essential requirements of the various types of consumers.

V—List of existing and planned cement works in Provinces and States

Province	Works	Present Capacity	Planned Capacity by 1952
N W F P			
Punjab	Wah	165 000	365 000
	Dalmia Dandot	70 000	220 000
	Punjab Minerals Co		100 000
Baluchistan			
Sind	Rohri	70 000	170 000
	Shankar Nagar (Karachi)	200 000	350 000
Bombay	Sevalia		100 000
	2 or 3 more new Works under consideration		300 000
Delhi			
U P	National Cement Mines and Ind Ltd		100 000
C P	Kymore	250 000	350 000
	Hindustan Housing		100 000
Bihar	Khairi	100 000	
	Chambass		200 000
	Dalmianagar	150 000	300 000
	Sone Valley	200 000	200 000
	Kalyanpur	40 000	40 000
	Sandhri		200 000

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Province |	Works	Present Capacity	Planned Capacity by 1952
Bengal	Asam Mining Corpn		100,000
	F W Heilgers & Co		20,000
Assam	Assam Bengal I	75,000	150,000
	Siju		100,000
Madras	Kistna	80,000	180,000
	Coimbatore	180,000	280,000
	Dalmiapuram	70,000	220,000
	Andhra	30,000	60,000
	Tinnevely		100,000
	Kurnool		50,000
INDIAN STATES			
Baroda	Dwarka	180,000	180,000
Bhopal	J P Srivastava & Sons		100,000
Bundi	Lakheri	220,000	320,000
Gangapur	Bird & Co		100,000
Gwahar	Banmor	60,000	60,000
Hyderabad	Shahabad	200,000	240,000
Jind	Dalma Dadri	70,000	220,000
Mysore	Bhadravati	20,000	50,000
Nawanagar	Jamnagar		100,000
Patna	Bhupendra	100,000	200,000
Porbandar	Porbandar	40,000	100,000
Sirmoor	Sirmur Traders		100,000
Travancore	Travancore Cement		50,000

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS IN BIHAR

Mr. President: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the Honourable Member Mr. Ishaq Seth. The motion is "to discuss the failure of the Railway Department to take adequate steps in time to protect the lives and property of passengers in Bihar as reported in the *Dawn* and other papers"

• [Mr. President]

12 Noon Having found it to be vague, I asked for certain information and the Honourable Member has referred me to the issues of the *Dawn*, dated the 3rd and the 4th of November 1946. I am afraid there has been delay and there remains therefore no urgency of the matter. The House was in session on 4th November, after the publication of these news. Besides, the motion does not appear to be clear as regards the stations. Perhaps the report in the *Dawn* gives those stations. Then, it appears to me that item 3 of the provincial legislative list mentions "police, including the railway and village police," to be a provincial subject. I do not see how this matter can, therefore, be a proper subject for an adjournment motion, subject of course, to whatever the Honourable Member has to say on the point of urgency. I take it that by "failure to give protection" he means so far as the attacks from mob outside are concerned and not on account of some inherent defect in the running of the trains or in the railway administration itself.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) It may be both. With regard to the second point, if the legal position is such that the protection of passengers travelling in railway coaches is the duty of the provinces and of the provincial administration, then I am afraid my motion cannot be debated here. To that extent I agree. But I thought the position is that railways being the Central subject, so far as the life and property of those who are travelling inside the railway carriages are concerned, it is the duty of the Railway Department to protect them and it is on that basis that the motion has been given notice of.

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) May I say submit to you that if the attack comes on the line or on a particular train from the mob without the train being stopped, it is, of course, the duty of the Provincial Government to look after it. But if the train is stopped by pulling the chain, then it is the duty of Railway Department to look into the matter, because it is not the function of the Provincial Government to see whether a chain was pulled or not. Now, the allegations that are in the *Dawn* are that the chains have been pulled and the trains have been stopped and they were then attacked. The precaution to stop this sort of thing is to be taken by the Railway Department.

Mr. President: I do not think any useful purpose will be served by trying to meet the arguments advanced in a fine and very subtle manner by the Honourable the Deputy President. The report that has been given to me says that reports of communal clashes have been received from Patna, Hosharpur and other places in the Patna district and that on account of the disturbances in certain areas in Bihar, the Punjab Mail of the East Indian Railway came late etc. Obviously, the want of protection to the life and property of the passengers was not due to anything which the Railway authorities failed to do but because of certain extraneous circumstances, a matter obviously under the jurisdiction of the Railway police. I cannot understand the distinction between such disturbances by mobs coming from within or from without the railway carriages. Whatever it may be I do not think the motion is in order. It is not urgent, as I pointed out, and it is not in order otherwise also, it is a provincial matter.

INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION BILL

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish the Industrial Finance Corporation of India.

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish the Industrial Finance Corporation of India."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATION BILL

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate certain payments, dealings in foreign exchange and securities and the import and export of currency and bullion

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate certain payments, dealings in foreign exchange and securities and the import and export of currency and bullion"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I introduce the Bill

MOTOR VEHICLES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I introduce the Bill

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES (TEMPORARY POWERS) BILL

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide the continuance during a limited period of powers to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain commodities

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide the continuance during a limited period of powers to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain commodities"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I introduce the Bill

COFFEE MARKET EXPANSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I introduce the Bill

REGISTRATION OF TRANSFERRED COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member) Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Registration of Transferred Companies Ordinance, 1942

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Registration of Transferred Companies Ordinance, 1942"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

WORKMEN'S STATE INSURANCE BILL

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies) Sir, with your permission, in the absence of the Honourable the Labour Member, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain benefits to workmen employed in or in connection with work of factories in case of sickness, maternity and accident and to make provision for certain other matters in relation thereto

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain benefits to workmen employed in or in connection with work of factories in case of sickness, maternity and accident and to make provision for certain other matters in relation thereto"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I introduce the Bill

REQUISITIONED LAND (CONTINUANCE OF POWERS) BILL

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Secretary, Defence Department) Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land

Mr. President. The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land"

The motion was adopted

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, I introduce the Bill

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION—*concl'd*

Mr. President: The House will now resume further consideration of the following motion moved by Mr B R Sen, on 4th November 1946

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration"

and also the further consideration of the amendment moved by Mr Lawson, on 4th November 1946

In this connection, I have received a communication from the Honourable Dr Rajendra Prasad which I will read to the House

"Dear Mr President,

The situation in Bihar requires my immediate presence there I am therefore going away today (*that is yesterday morning*) and will not be present in the Assembly to listen to the speeches of other Members who may participate in the debate on the Food situation I beg of you and of the House to excuse my absence in view of the emergent situation which necessitates this The Secretary of the Food Department will be present and take part in the debate

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I highly appreciate the lucid statement of the Honourable the Food Member describing the present situation and the future programme of production The speech which we heard two days ago on the food situation was very different from what we have been accustomed to hear in previous years We hope that the food situation will improve Sir, India before the war had been an exporting country as far as foodstuffs are concerned I have got before me the figures of 1938-39 as published in 'Trade of India Review' In that particular year, we produced 9.9 million tons wheat and exported only 279 thousand tons During the same year we produced 23.6 million tons rice and exported 282 thousand tons, but we imported 1,282 thousand tons Thus we had a shortage of 1 million ton of rice in that year which we imported from Ceylon Our total export of cereal was $\frac{1}{2}$ million ton We also exported large quantities of seeds, most of which could be used as food—groundnuts by men and other seeds by cattle The total quantity which we exported to foreign countries in 1938-39 was about three-fourth million tons in food grains and pulses and about 15 crores worth of seeds and imported 1 million ton rice from Burma This was after feeding the whole country That was our position before the war We had enough to eat and we could also afford to export certain quantities to foreign countries, particularly to U K Now,

after the war, as we understand from the Honourable the Food Member, our production has increased. So, on account of increase in production, I do not see any reason why there should be shortage of food in our country. As far as famine is concerned, there are only three places where there is famine. One in the files of the Food Department, that is the place where famine starts. The second is in the speeches of Honourable Members of this House, including myself. I made a speech about famine with the expectation that we might bring more food from foreign countries in order to lower the prices, because the moment we hear that food is coming from outside, the prices always are lowered. But to my great astonishment I find that the wheat which we purchased from Argentine was really at a very high cost and my expectations were altogether falsified. I think all the speeches that I delivered in order to get cheap food from outside did not prove to be correct. It is an important point to be looked into. We do want food from abroad but we do not want the same at exorbitant price. I hope my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall who represented this country will tell the House at what price he purchased Argentine wheat compared with the price prevailing in India. If it was at a high price, for what reasons. Was it not possible for him to get it at a lower price?

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan): I did not purchase any food at all.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Did my Honourable friend have a pleasure trip at the expense of the taxpayer?

Diwan Chaman Lall: It was a strenuous trip. Food had already been purchased by the representative of the Government of India, but he found that he could not get it out of the country. Our ships were lying in the harbours paying \$5 000 a day as demurrage. I got the food out.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then he merely wished to help the Commerce Department instead of Food Department.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I helped my own people to get food.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: It was a private effort.

Diwan Chaman Lall: It was a public effort.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: At any rate, when he gets up to speak, I hope he would tell the House at what price the representatives of Government purchased foodstuffs in Argentine, and how did that price compare with the internal price prevalent in Argentine. Therefore, as far as we are concerned, I think there is no shortage in India. I think the only reason for shortage of food is deterioration. Today and at other times we have heard of the quantity of food that has gone bad because it was not properly handled. My Honourable friend the Food Secretary while replying to a question today could not even give the figures of food destroyed. I think it is simple arithmetic, he knows the exact production and also the exact consumption and the difference between the two is the quantity lost by deterioration. So the chief reason for the shortage of food is not want of it but inexperience in handling. Storing wheat is not easy, it requires expert knowledge and people in the trade have been accustomed for centuries to keep wheat in a proper condition. But our Government of India officials are not experts in the matter of storage of food, they consult zoologists and entomologists to study the parasites which destroy the food. By the time they approached the scientists the war was over, and I am sure that by the time they complete their investigations about the method of storage the Food Department itself will be liquidated and the whole thing will go back to the trade. Therefore the reason for the shortage of food is really bad storage, and it requires careful looking into.

Then I come to the question of procurement, which was discussed at length by the Food Member. If we leave it to the sweet will of the producers to sell or not to sell their articles to the consumers the whole social fabric will break down. If the producers of foodstuffs maintain that it is their privilege to sell or not to sell their articles to the consumers, and the same privilege is claimed

[Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad]

by the cotton producers and manufacturers of cloth, and if Government accept that proposition, society will be paralysed and there will be complete deadlock. Government must take a strong line on this question, if they do not do so it is better to nationalise all industries and adopt communist methods. But I do not think it will be necessary to go so far. It is understood that the first priority must rest with the producers, but whatever is left after his own consumption and seed requirements must be the property of the State and the people. The same applies to the manufacturers of cotton and piece-goods. Government may hesitate to apply this principle because they have to depend on the votes of these cultivators who returned them to power. But unless they adopt the principle I have just laid down there can be no stable or efficient Government in India. Whatever is left after meeting the requirements of the producers should come to the State and should be distributed to those who do not produce these foodgrains. Otherwise we will not know where we are. I am prepared to discuss the detailed scheme of procurement and responsibilities of the Central Government as well as the provincial Governments.

The next point discussed by the Food Member was with regard to the prices, whether they should be fixed by the producer or the consumer. I am afraid that is wrong way of handling the proposition. This may be all right in ordinary normal life but we are living in abnormal times and the important point that the Honourable Food Member ignored was that we calculate prices in terms of the paper rupee, which is only a managed currency. Intrinsically it has no value. The cultivators appreciate gold but not the paper rupee. Let the officials of Government make an experiment. Let some one go with a tola of gold and find how much wheat he gets for it, and let some one also try with this paper money and see how much he gets in exchange for that paper. That will determine the purchasing power of one tola of gold in terms of paper money. But to make this experiment of the purchasing power of managed currency which has no intrinsic value with which it is a fundamental mistake. The price index of wheat at present is 373. My Honourable friend knows that prices of all foodstuffs move in sympathy with the price of wheat and rice. If the price index of wheat is Rs. 373 it means that instead of Rs. 100 you have to pay Rs. 373 for the same amount of wheat. We who are wage earners get money not in terms of gold or wheat but in terms of manipulated and badly printed paper money, and it is really the purchasing power of that rupee which is taken into consideration. If we accept the payment method proposed by the Honourable Food Member what will be the result? The result will be that the value of rupee will come down to 4½ annas. Therefore if you want to pay wages you must increase them in the ratio of 4½ to 16 or in other words, instead of paying Rs. 100 you should pay Rs. 373. The Government of India have appointed a Commission—the Central Pay Commission—to go into the question of wages of the Central Government employees. I think this Commission should consist of three persons because in the words of Lord Palmerston the most efficient committee is a committee of three persons provided two out of them absent themselves. This Commission therefore should consist of the Honourable the Food Member, the President of the Assembly, and myself, and because both the President and myself will be absent the Honourable the Food Member will have no alternative but to recommend that the pay of Government servants should be increased from Rs. 100 to Rs. 373. No further Commission will be necessary, it is a simple question of arithmetic.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor, Non-Muhammadan Rural.) Let us address ourselves to allowances.

Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Allowances will be raised from Rs. 45 to Rs. 168 per day. The thing is that we have to look at it from an entirely different point of view. The question is that the price of wheat ought not to be considered from the view point of what the consumers can afford to give or what the producers would like to have. It has to be determined by the Govern-

ment and they have to decide what shall be the value of their managed currency represented by paper rupee. I do not want to speak on it at length today. The Government ought to compare their prices in terms of gold. If they want to stabilize the purchasing power of the rupee they should fix the price in terms of gold, and after that they should fix the price in terms of silver, and wheat, textiles, and everything else will follow. So instead of fixing the prices from the point of view of consumers and producers he ought to have the co-operation of the Government, because the Food Member alone cannot solve this problem. He must have the fullest co-operation of the Finance Member, the Commerce Member, the Supply Member, and in fact the entire Government. By joint effort and mutual consideration they should fix the purchasing power of the rupee and then the price of wheat and all other articles will automatically be fixed.

Coming to the question of production, there is one factor which the Honourable the Food Member omitted in all his calculations, and that is the increase in the population of this country which is over 1 per cent. In fixing his target he should take the increase in population also into consideration. He said the other day that the production of foodstuffs has gone up by about 4 per cent but the population during the same period has also gone up by about the same percentage. Therefore whatever long term policy may be framed, it should take into consideration that our production should increase at least in proportion to the increase in population. I have already said that we had enough production in all cereals except rice before the war. No doubt the situation has eased somewhat and we can get rice from Burma and other countries, but it seems desirable that we ought to make efforts to produce rice ourselves of the type which people of Bengal and people of the South would like to eat. I suggest to the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches, and especially my Honourable friend who comes from Assam, whether it will not be possible for them to increase the production of rice in the territory now belonging to Assam. Labour is available in Assam and elsewhere. They remove their prejudices of what they call hinc system. I feel that they can produce at least as much rice as we used to import from Burma before the war. Although we may be able to import rice at present from Burma, Siam and other countries, I think it is desirable that in the matter of food we should be self-sufficient. Therefore I beseech that every effort should be made by mutual compromise to see that the large tracts of land available in Assam are put under rice cultivation. That is really an important point which the Honourable Food Member ought to tackle.

There is one point which the Honourable Member did not touch in his speech, and I think rightly, and that is the question of use of machinery in cultivation or large scale farming. In my opinion in India we cannot use machinery to the same extent as is used in the West. The reason for this is that everybody here has got small holdings and if you use machinery on a large scale, a large number of people will be out of employment. For increase of production we have to fall back upon the facilities which were mentioned by the Honourable the Food Member himself viz., better seeds, fertilizers, water, and everything else which is required in order to produce more food. The position of cultivators at present is very good because they are getting Rs. 378 instead of Rs. 100 for their produce. But these conditions will not continue very long. They may continue for a few years more. The old conditions are bound to be restored and they will again be in debt as in the past. This is the time to consider this problem and we should follow the same method which Japan followed for improving the condition of their agricultural farmers. We know that cultivators for four months in the year are idle. These months ought to be utilised in cottage industries. Perhaps my friend will know that in Japan before the war the entire hosiery and a large portion of the textile was done by villagers by the system of cottage industry. Therefore, we ought to introduce cottage industry in the villages so that when the people are idle they may produce wealth and earn money. In order to make them rich by artificially raising the value of their products from 100 to 378 is not really the

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production of wealth. They are not really rich people. Artificially on paper they are rich but it is not satisfactory. This is manipulated wealth. The real wealth will be what they produce after doing some work. If by the same work the amount is increased it is not wealth. If by additional work you get additional wealth, that is real wealth. So you should introduce cottage industries in all the villages. Now they are in a position to do so because the cultivators have money and they can buy small machines by means of which this can be done. This question is attracting the attention of the Development and Resettlement. The Resettlement Directorate is working out a scheme of cottage industry for demobilized soldiers. The same principle should be extended later on for these villages. The scheme is that we take demobilized soldiers and train them for six months or a year in certain trades and afterwards manufacture the machines which they would require for their trades and give them either on rent or sell them. The payment may be made by instalments in lump-sum. If this is successful in the case of demobilized soldiers, I see no reason why it should not be extended in the case of villagers so that they may engage themselves in cottage industries during the period when they have no work and begin to earn some money. This will also improve our industries enormously. Though we have factories all round, (I admit that factories are indispensable), yet these factories will not be able to produce all our requirements. The villagers should continue to produce all the requirements of the villages by these cottage industries. Food Department should co-operate with Resettlement Directorate and train villagers in cottage industries, they should not depend on the artificial price which will not continue for a long time.

Mr. President. May I invite the Honourable Members attention now to one aspect of this debate? Government have allotted two days for the debate. Today is the second day of the discussion, but I find from the list that has come to me that a large number of Honourable Members are eager to express their views. I propose to call upon the Food Secretary to reply by about four o'clock. The House will certainly like him to give information on the various points that have been raised by Honourable Members. I do not wish that any Honourable Member should leave out any of his points. I do not want to curtail the raising or mentioning of points, but there has to be some time limit to the speeches. The Honourable Member has spoken for half an hour. Time will therefore be short for other members, otherwise, the alternative will be that some of the members wishing to address the House will be crowded out.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division, Non-Muhammadan Rural). Formerly when some such questions were discussed in the House a time limit was accepted, either 15 or 20 minutes. If that procedure is followed, it will be possible for the House to know the view points of the other members. At the same time, it will be possible to conclude the debate before the House rises for the day.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division, Muhammadan Rural). The time limit should be divided according to the Party Groups as in the past, so that the Party concerned may put up certain speakers within the time allowed.

Sri V. O. Vellingiri Gounder (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot, Non-Muhammadan Rural). There are many of us in the back benches who cannot get any time. If a time limit is to be enforced, may I suggest that at least ten minutes be given to each member. I do not think a twenty minutes limit is necessary.

Mr. President. I have made the suggestion and I have given the alternatives. If I find that the Members are already restraining themselves and having a time limit of their own, it will be more welcome to me. Otherwise, the other alternative will be to leave out the other prospective speakers. At any rate I shall be calling upon the Food Secretary at about 4 p.m. to give his reply and the Parties may adjust time limits among themselves.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Under Standing Order 62, you can limit the speeches to fifteen minutes each. This is a resolution and undoubtedly it is governed by the provision of Standing Order 62.

Mr. President: The Standing Order is not applicable in the strict sense. This is a motion by the Government. If the House wants me to exercise a time limit, I shall be glad to do so.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of your ruling I suppress my speech and say, only a few words, I understand rationing and no rationing. But I do not understand partial rationing because that means that I live on starvation diet which others indulge in lavishment. If I go four miles I find that cattle are being fed on wheat. I cannot invite more than 20 persons to a party, but a villager can feed 2,000 persons in marriage parties. This does not show great credit to the administration.

Here in India hospitality is our great virtue. The people of the west are not familiar with that hospitality. I wrote a letter to the Rationing Authority in the United Provinces that I get in Aligarh a large number of guests and there is no decent hotel or place where they can stay and to give me some additional ration. The reply that I got was that I should tell my guests, when they came, that they should bring their rations with them. If they fail to bring them ask them to go Halwai or Nanbai shop. Such reception of our guests is against our sentiments. But the humour does not end here. At the end of his letter he said "Copy to the District Magistrate for action." It is in keeping with western hospitality. Hospitality is our traditional virtue and Food Department is out to destroy it. I hope that Food Department will be liquidated long before we lose our virtue. I am sure my friend from the North-West Frontier Province will not appreciate the practice of Food Department.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province General) Certainly if it is for the good of India I will write something worse than that!

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then I have some suggestions. In the first place rationing should not be fixed for everybody in terms of sugar, rice and wheat, because the poorer people do not like to take sugar. They would rather be pleased to take a double or treble quantity of *gur* for the same price. They may not like wheat. But they would like a double quantity of the coarser grains for the same value. Therefore, in rationing these things, one thing should be essential that everybody should not get the same stuff. The prices of articles which poor men use should be very low and rationing should be fixed not by quantity of inferior stuff, but we should also fix the value in money and supply about double the quantity to poor people for the same amount.

The second point is, Food Department should not have arithmeticians only, but they should also have persons who are familiar with the habits of the people. You send Bajra to Travancore, where the people do not know what it is and how to eat it. The villager in Upper India eat Bajra, and Maize, but supplement it with *Mutha*, which we do not get in towns. Average resident of the town will begin to suffer from dysentery if he is compelled to eat maize or Bajra without *Mutha*. Give us the food which we have been used to eat for centuries. You cannot alter the habits of people by order under the pretence of famine. As regards rice, position is more difficult. Somebody in Food Department must study the quality of rice which people are accustomed to eat in a particular locality and that quality alone should be supplied to them. What is the use of giving rice which people do not eat. In Aligarh nobody purchases the rice which is supplied, which even the chickens refuse to eat. It is wasted. My request is that somebody should carefully study the quality of rice consumed in each locality and supply the same quality. If not give it up in favour of trade channel.

My next suggestion is that at present what is called the Rationing Officer is a person whose minimum income free of income tax is Rs. 2,000 per month. It is his due. An honest Rationing Officer will confine to this income. But honest persons are few. Corruption is all round and I hope that the present

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Government will eradicate the shortcomings of their predecessors for this purpose I suggest that there should be a committee to look after the system of rationing and the action of the Rationing Officers who should not be protected by the Defence of India Rules. At present he is above criticism. He is defended by Defence of India Rules. There should be a committee to watch Rationing System. In the case of Delhi I pointed out last year and also in previous year about the corruption of one individual and mentioned his name. He is still flourishing in Delhi and no action has been taken against him.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Mohammadan Rural)
Is there only one?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad. I think it is better to associate some kind of non-official committee with the rationing officers. There should be a mohalla committee also and shops should be opened in each mohalla where the food-stuffs should be supplied.

My next suggestion is that persons should be allowed to bring food from outside provided it is written off against their ration.

Mr B. R. Sen (Secretary Food Department) That is already allowed in the U P.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I wish it may be so. I cannot bring my own food which is lying elsewhere without permit which is not easily obtained. People should be allowed to have their own food provided it is written off against their own ration. That will really help the rationing authority.

It is very difficult to get ration permit cards. In Ceylon it is exceedingly simple. The moment I landed there I got the permit. Here people have to wait for three or four days before they get their permit cards. These cards should be easily available, and high penalty should not be charged for losing them. They must be supplied not by one authority but by several authorities in the town, like the post office. Certain facilities should be given to the public in order to relieve them of the sufferings which they at present undergo. The cards for the guests should be issued at short notice and preferably at the station.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Sir, I have no intention of following the previous speaker when he went into a dissertation regarding prices, the value of the rupee and the value of gold. But it is quite obvious that the many subjects that he touched were in the larger context irrelevant to the present situation in India.

I would like to add my tribute to the many tributes that have already been paid to the Honourable the Food Member not only for his brilliant speech but for a speech the equal of which has not been heard for quite a long time on the floor of this House—a speech full of simplicity and a complete grasp of the situation and full of human sympathy for his countrymen. I have no doubt that under his charge the Food Department is in the ablest hands in the country and the grave situation facing the country is going to be taken charge of by competent hands.

Sir, the question is not merely a grasp of the situation. The question is how are we going to relieve the situation that faces us in the country. There are only three methods of doing so. One is to procure more food. The second is to purchase more food and the third is to build up a sufficient reserve so that the calamities that have faced us in the past do not face us in the future. Therefore, the situation that I would like to direct your attention to, Mr President, is what is the present position regarding procurement of food? What is the position regarding production and what is the position regarding our reserves?

At the present moment there are two methods by which we are getting our food. One is, as explained by the Honourable the Food Member, the internal market and the second is the external market. The internal market is concerned with demand.

we have not been able to get that demand fulfilled. You, Mr. President, will remember the debate that took place on the floor of this House in the month of March last when Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar came back from America. We expressed then our grave doubts as to the programme that he had accepted, grave doubts as to whether the quantity that he thought that he was going to get from abroad he was really going to get and the fears that we expressed on the floor of the House at that time were justified later on. And today we are faced with this proposition that although our demand was for 4.4 million tons we have only been able to get 1.7 million tons. As for the further the Emergency Food Council which met on the 4th November (a couple of days ago) will have considered the position as far as India is concerned and from the fact that total availability for the whole world reckoned by that Emergency Food Council is about 27 million tons and the total requirements of the world reckoned by that Emergency Food Council are about 33 to 36 million tons, the result has been that even our original demand having been reduced our later demand for 2½ million tons has again been reduced and our total demand will now be sanctioned by the Emergency Food Council only to the extent of 1.9 million tons. That is the position as far as the Emergency Food Council is concerned. As to our position—and here I may differ in a slight degree from the Department—our own position is that by the end of January 1947, unless and until we can get another one million tons of food from abroad over and above all our procurements and all our availabilities, we shall be facing a very serious situation in the country. The question then arises, how are we going to get this extra million tons of food? This is a factor which we have to bear in mind. As the last speaker stated, our position is very serious. 150 millions of our countrymen are under the rationing system, partially or otherwise. I believe 1,00,000 men are employed in working this particular scheme throughout India, that is, the department has engaged about 1,00,000 administrators in this process—a small number compared with the magnitude of the problem. Crores have been sunk in this organisation. It is necessary for us, since this is the only organisation that has gone deep down to the people, that we must not disband this organisation when the time comes and when the necessity is not so great. But the fact is that the total caloric value which is being allowed to our people is about 1,200 calories per day, and that is the lowest caloric value being utilised in any part of the world today, including the occupied countries. Mr. L. Guardia, who was the UNRRA administrator, said only a few weeks ago that the lowest caloric value which is necessary to keep body and soul together is about 2,400 to 2,600 calories a day, as against that, less than half is being allowed to our people. These are the facts, and it is necessary therefore to remember that this one million tons that we shall need now has got to come from somewhere. At the same time the overall position must not be lost sight of. Our production is between 50 and 55 million tons a year. Our needs are 60 million tons over a year. Our population is increasing at the rate of 5 millions a year so that our demand for food and more food is going to be constant not merely now but for a number of years to come. It is not possible by waving a magic wand to produce more food immediately from the soil that is producing this food now, unless and until you are going to enrich that soil and adopt such methods of agriculture and farming and mechanisation as will increase the productivity of our soil. Therefore the need is going to be very great. That need has got to be fulfilled. As far as the long term policy is concerned I will say a word about it later on. At the present moment I am concerned with the immediate short term policy of procuring an extra million tons of food between now and the month of January 1947.

There are three methods by which we can obtain this food. As far as the international Organisation is concerned, I do not think we are going to get more than 1,00,000 tons of food between now and July 1947 from Canada, although Canada had a surplus of 6 million tons of wheat which other countries have taken away. I do not think we are going to get more than 5,00,000 tons of wheat between now and July 1947 from the United

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States, and I do not know how much we are going to get between now and January next. These are the figures available in Washington, as far as availabilities from these two countries are concerned. In fact, the total amount that was made available to us from the United States—it was not wheat—for the month of October was only 59,000 tons, and we do not know what allotments are going to be made to us for the months of November and December.

Therefore the position being problematic, it is necessary for us to make every attempt to obtain extra food, that extra million tons of food, from every corner of the world that we can approach. Where can we get it? When I was leaving New York I understood that a figure of 3,00,000 tons of wheat was published, that was going to be made available to Japan from the United States, and at the same time I learnt that this 3,00,000 tons of wheat was not going to Japan as they had discovered that there was already a sufficiency of food in that country. Now, it is necessary, and I have no doubt that the Food Department, ably led as it is, brilliantly staffed as it is, will take up this matter immediately, not only take it up themselves but in conjunction with His Majesty's Government take up this matter and place it before the United States Government, that this 3,00,000 tons of wheat which is available in the United States should be diverted immediately to this country in order to meet our needs. This is a very important factor. If we can get this 3,00,000 tons of wheat, we shall be able to save the situation for a few weeks to come.

Over and above this 3,00,000 tons of wheat, there is available today in America according to the information I gathered in the United States and in South America, about 1,00,000 tons of rice, 62,000 tons of which are available in Brazil, but unfortunately according to the constitution of the Emergency Food Council and its Rice Committee, we are unable to touch it independently, because rice is not programmed but is allocated which means that there is a particular territory designated and a particular quantity designated to that particular territory, from which we can pick up rice and from no other. I have already, anticipating the requirements of the Food Department, made a suggestion to the Emergency Food Council in regard to this particular matter, and I have no doubt the Food Department will take up this matter so that we may, if we are able to pick up this rice and pick up the 3,00,000 tons of wheat, alleviate the situation that is facing us in the very near future.

The third source of supply to us is Australia, and I must add my word of congratulations to those countries which have stood by us in the past, and I must support the Honourable Food Member in his tribute to those countries. There will be a quantity of 1.9 million tons of wheat surplus available for export from Australia from December onwards. My suggestion to the Food Department would be that they must, realising the seriousness of the position which is not going to last a year or two but may last five years or longer, and in view of the world requirements of food and in view of the increase in population that is taking place in India, attempt to enter into long term arrangements with those countries which can supply us with the necessary food. Great Britain, realising the tremendous export surplus that was available to them in Canada, entered into such long term agreements with that country, with the result that practically all the six million tons of surplus wheat is going out to be utilised by Great Britain for her purposes and for other international purposes to which use she may put that food. It is necessary for us too to do the same and I hope that this point will not be forgotten by the Food Department in their dealings with Australia in the matter of food.

At the same time I am happy to be able to announce that, as a result of the mission that went out to the Argentine—the success of which is probably due either to my colleagues or to the Honourable Member who is sitting there, Mr. Sen the Secretary of the Food Department, and all the officers of the Food Department for the great co-operation that they showed in the working of this Mission to the Argentine—my part was very little indeed—the major part of the credit goes to the Food Department and to my colleagues who went

with me—we were able to succeed in getting 5,00,000 tons of maize which had already been purchased locally or through the High Commissioner in London, out of the country. It was a difficult mission, because of the situation in South America and because there were about 17 different international missions all wanting food for their own countries, including the British Food Mission—about 30 strong—who had been there for a couple of months already before we got there. But we were fortunate that almost immediately on my arrival we were able to get 14 ships loaded, not only 14 but we had to borrow 3 more ships, 17 ships loaded almost immediately on our arrival and sent out to India and I am glad to find that those ships have already arrived in Indian ports and the food is being distributed in the scarcity areas. Those ships had been paying as much as, I understand, £5,000 a day demurrage. It was an extraordinary situation, because there was one mission, for instance, which was given permits to load its ships. After they started loading ships the order came—unload. The ships were unloaded and the ships went back to that country empty, unable to pick up the food that they bought. Therefore it was a very serious and a very nervous situation but in the end, after all the difficulties, the situation was taken in hand. The difficulties were surmounted and now the rest of the food is practically on its way—100,000 tons—the rest having already arrived in India.

But I did not leave the matter at that. From New York I got into touch with the Argentine authorities, and this is the cable I have got from them.

"Owing to heavy commitments next crops of wheat and doubtful almost poor prospects for new crop Maize very difficult get Lagomarsino take new commitments. He has now, however, promised me to give up to 250,000 tons between wheat maize millets rye and oats against which second quota of Hessians would have to be allotted on similar terms of last agreement."

This is a matter for negotiation again and the Food Department will undoubtedly take up this matter and if more food is available, the President of the Republic General John Perron told me that he would possibly be able to give us 500,000 tons, I think the situation would be saved between now and the end of January.

I submit, Mr. President, here too, as in the case of Australia, it would be necessary in my opinion to enter into a long term arrangement. We must look beyond this year and the next year and the year after and if we can secure our position, there is nothing to prevent us from unloading anywhere where there is scarcity in other parts of the world, after our requirements have been completely met and there is a surplus resulting from these long term arrangements but for our own safety the arrangements must not be short term any longer. They must be long term and if we can enter into long term arrangements we shall be in a more favourable position. We have a commodity which we can bargain with on a barter basis as we did in the case of Argentine, a commodity which is only available to us in India and to nobody else in any other part of the world. I mean hessian and raw jute and I do not see any reason why, when every other country which has surplus food is holding other countries which have not, almost to ransom, or utilising the surplus for political purposes, we should not for bargaining purposes utilise this particular commodity of which we hold a monopoly and I am certain that if we do so, as very ably the Food Department did in the matter of the Argentine, we shall be able to control the situation regarding our imports from abroad.

Now, it is not only a question of imports. I know the House would be with me when I pay my tribute to the Indian Famine Mission from America headed by Mr. Schultz, which came out to this country and put the question of the famine in India on the map of the world. I know that the House will join me in paying a tribute to the excellent work that those gentlemen did. I may inform the House that not only did they produce a most excellent report, copies of which are no doubt available to all of us but since their return to America they have not ceased to plead for India and India's needs in the highest quarters in order that the requirements of India may be met by those countries which have a surplus. At the same time the House should know and appreciate that people like Mr. J. I. Sing in New York, and Pearl Buck

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of the India League have been constantly agitating for the supply of India's needs in the matter of food and helping to procure us food. I must also pay them a tribute for the valuable work they have done. They are still active and they continue to be active.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may continue his speech after Lunch. The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Sir, I was referring to the question of my own mission to the Argentine and I would like to take this opportunity of placing on record the tribute of my colleagues who went with me from this country to President General Peron for the sympathy that he showed towards the work of my mission and for the promptitude with which he intervened both originally and at a later stage in order to enable us to compete our trade treaty with the Argentine. The treaty itself is value for value basis treaty, that is to say, if the Argentine buy in our country a certain quantity of jute or hessian or any other commodity, we are entitled to buy for the equivalent value food in the Argentine. As the position stands at present, India has purchased, I believe, from the Argentine about 88 to 90 million pesos worth of food-stuff, which is equivalent to 300,000 tons of food which we have purchased and which is now arriving, but the value of the jute that we have sold to the Argentine Government, and we have sold it at a favourable rate—favourable from the point of view of the prices prevailing at that particular time—is about 200 million pesos worth. A peso is roughly equivalent to 14 annas. Therefore, according to the particular treaty that I have been able to enter into with the Argentine Government on behalf of the Government of India, we have got a leeway to make up to the extent of 120 million pesos, and I think this amount should be utilised, as I suggested, by our entering into arrangements with the Argentine, for the purpose of purchasing food which may be needed not only now but at a later stage in the years to come. I have already stated that the Argentine Government had subsequently informed us that they are willing to allow us to purchase another 250,000 tons of food which will be available out of the new crop which comes in in the month of December. If attempts are made by proper means and through proper hands to purchase this food, I think our country is going to benefit vastly from this transaction.

Now, there are certain other matters which I would like to refer to in connection with the future. The last speaker referred to questions of storage. This is a very important question. I understand that 12½ per cent of all the food grown in India is utilised either for seed or is lost as a result of storage. We do not quite know what particular quantity it may be, but it is possible it is from 8 to 5 per cent. Now it is necessary to conserve every grain of food that we produce. We, a great agricultural country, are the most backward in the matter of storage facilities. In Canada and in America you have a system of elevators, which is a most modern system for the purpose of conservation and transit of food. One member of my delegation was asked to investigate the question of elevators in America. He will in due course present his report to the Food Department, but this is a matter that should not be delayed. It should be taken in hand immediately. As long ago as 1928 I remember making a suggestion to that effect after my return from Canada to the then Finance Member, but unfortunately it was not taken up. Now we have an example before us in the province of Saskatchewan in Canada, where a system of storage has been developed on purely co-operative lines and it is working to the entire satisfaction of the province. I think somebody should be deputed to go there and study that particular problem and find out how they have successfully solved this question and arranged to preserve their food supply. That is one point to be considered very carefully for the future.

This second point to consider is the question of co-operative farming. It is a very large subject and I am not going to dilate on it except to make the suggestion that the Department concerned may look into this matter and see how we can put an end to these separate, tiny little holdings which are to be found in our country at present and get on to a basis of co-operative farming in this country.

The third question is the question of fertilizers. One big factory is being set up in Bihar under State management and control, but one factory is not sufficient. The top layer of the soil in many parts of the country has been destroyed and it is necessary to replace that by chemical fertilizers. The amount of manure available in the country even according to the present system is no longer sufficient and it is necessary to supplement that by means of factory produced manure. And I hope that steps will be taken, as now they are being taken, to start fertilizer factories on a large scale where the raw material is available so that fertilizers may be made available in ample measure and at cheap prices.

The last question is with regard to machinery. We must have tractors in this country. There are large tractors and small tractors. For small farms there are small tractors available and it was amazing to me when I went round in America to some farms and found that farms of 400 acres are being ploughed and harvested with the assistance of just two people. One man sitting on the machine ploughs the ground and the same machine is utilised for the purpose of harvesting the wheat and at the same time threshing the wheat, on the one side, you have the straw coming out and on the other the grain. It results in a tremendous saving of labour and gives quick returns. A machine like that is capable of ploughing several acres a day, whereas since we depend upon the rainfall and moisture in order to plough, it is necessary that during the planting time with quick ploughing, attempts should be made to utilise every bit of moisture that is available in the soil.

The next point is in regard to the question of prices, which was also raised by the last speaker. The Honourable the Food Member went at length into that question. It is obvious that in our country we have to adjust the prices, keeping in view the interests of the producer and keeping also in view the interests of the consumer. A certain method will have to be found in the end to see that the farmer gets the basic decent price for his produce irrespective of what the price in the market may be. Other countries have done so. France, Great Britain and even America have assured a higher than the market price for their agricultural produce by means of a subsidy. In England under the Wheat Commission that has been set up, a farmer gets the price of wheat which is 20 to 50 per cent more than the average world price of wheat. He is recouped out of a Processing tax and a similar method is employed in France. The necessity arises of stabilising agricultural prices and if decent prices are assured to the agriculturist over and above the market price by some such method as that of the Wheat Commission in Great Britain, I have not the slightest doubt that we should find no difficulty in the farmer giving the surplus produce and utilising as little as possible for his own purposes.

Finally, let it be understood and let the world realise this and let America particularly realise this that the need in India is not over, that the need in India is great and that between now and the month of January we must have nearly a million tons of more food if the rationing system is not to break down or if we are not to be compelled to keep on reduced rations. Does the world realise—I do not think they do, not in Washington, at any rate, from my information—what the implication of this reduced ration is? The health of our people is being steadily undermined under this small basic ration. It is necessary to take immediate steps to warn the world that this state of affairs is very dangerous and any break down in the rationing scheme would be disastrous to this country. Millions would go under not merely in starvation, but literally die. It is therefore necessary not only to procure enough food to keep the scheme in existence but get enough food to raise the standard of

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rations because many millions of our people, poverty stricken as they are, are unable to get anything more than the basic ration of 12 oz a day, that is allotted to them. They are not like other countries, even European occupied countries where they can get their bread, and at the same time they have other kinds of food which they can use as supplement along with their bread in order to get a fairly decent living. In Germany, the basic caloric ration amounts to 1,600 to 2,000 against our 1,200 calories in India. In Germany there are other kinds of tinned foodstuffs which are available to them, whereas to a great majority of our population nothing else is available. I would take this opportunity of appealing to countries like Canada, and U S A to realise our great need and to come to the assistance of India at this particular hour of need, and not to be content with what has been done. It is a miracle to see what has been done in India by our department, in putting this scheme through with great ability and with great energy. There is no other country in the world today whose population subsists on rationing on this wide scale—150 million people are under rations. There is no other country in the world—I am astonished to think of this. I have gone to other countries like Argentina where there is an abundant surplus. In those countries nobody is ever worried about food. Nobody is worried about anything else as far as their economic existence is concerned. I go to U S A. I find the same state of affairs, barring a little shortage in sugar and things of that sort, or perhaps a temporary dislocation in the meat supply position because of the strike. There is really no shortage of food. The same thing applies to Canada. Although this does not apply to Great Britain, which must have the sympathy of this House for the sufferings they have gone through and are still going through, yet the conditions there are simple when compared to the condition in our country. Therefore every attempt should be made to bring this to the attention of the rest of the world by sending out missions composed of men capable of putting the case before the councils of the world in order that you may be able to retrieve the dangerous position that faces us in the immediate future. I must finally congratulate the Honourable the Food Member and the new Government which are completely alive to the seriousness of the situation in India and wish them God speed in the efforts they are making to ameliorate that condition.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Sir, we all greatly admired the ability and clarity with which the Honourable the Food Member dealt with what has come to be a 'hardy annual'—I mean the discussion on the food situation. His speech was listened to with profound attention and with some relief that he was not going to ask the peoples of the deficit areas to tighten their belts one more notch. All the same, I think there must have been many Members in this House who will share my disappointment, that there was no indication of the new efforts made by surplus areas to help others in distress. We expected some outline of the steps which have been taken in this direction or are under contemplation in those areas which have not pulled their full weight in the past.

While the Honourable Member, Dr Rajendra Prasad admitted that the food situation had not improved in the past few months, his speech as a whole may have led members of this House to believe that we had turned the corner and could congratulate ourselves on surviving the worst dangers. Such an attitude would be one of unwarranted complacency, and the Honourable Member himself would not, I am sure, like such an impression to get about. The fact remains that even today the province of Madras has uncovered deficit of five lakhs of tons between now and the end of 1946, and my own province of Bombay has still to find two lakhs of tons of cereals. If these quantities are not made available by the Central Government by the end of this month, the rationing system in Bombay and Madras which has drawn such tributes from the American Food Mission from ex-President Hoover and from all students of food administration in this country will collapse. Surely that shows that the crisis in its most intensive form is still upon us.

By abandoning the basic plan on which they had worked for the last two years, the Government of India have done nothing to help those provinces which have tried to do their duty towards the country as a whole. Under the basic plan the Government of India gave assistance to provinces annually on the basis of merits and deserts. Sometimes back this basic plan was abandoned and the Government of India decided to distribute central supplies every month on the basis of stocks existing in the province at the beginning of the month. If a Province was improvident or did not procure enough, it would have a low level of stocks, and on that basis the Government of India would give it assistance. Another province which procured more of its own resources and maintains strict control over distribution and, therefore, had higher stocks, would get nothing. This abandonment of the basic plan has been a distinct encouragement to improvidence on the part of provincial governments and deserves the strictest censure. I trust that the Food Secretary when replying to this debate will give an assurance to this House that as from January 1947, the basic plan will again be restored and that this system of giving to those who deserve least and stinting those provinces who deserve the best thanks, of this country such as the provinces of Bombay and Madras will be reversed.

I hope he will give a further assurance that meantime there will be no further cut in the already inadequate general ration of 12 oz.

I hope my words will not be misunderstood by the Honourable the Food Member but the question which people in Madras and Bombay and Mysore are asking is we have mobilised all our resources to the utmost of our ability, we have rationed our urban and rural populations, we have gone to our farmers and taken from them the surplus grain, and yet we are denied by the Central Government supplies to meet our barest needs? Why are other areas who have been lax in their food administration still allowed to get away with large supplies? When maize is made a compulsory part of the ration in Bombay and Madras, why should not the same be done in Delhi which is as much a deficit province as the other two?

Then we come to other anomalies. We have been told that government monopoly purchase of foodgrains is the only method to meet an emergent situation of the kind which faces India today. And yet why has this system made little headway in quite a few provinces? The previous Food Member warned, cajoled and promised by turns, but unfortunately, it is the opinion in deficit areas that despite all this, there is no real enthusiasm for government procurement in surplus provinces, I may be wrong and shall be glad to be corrected.

All of us are concerned and must remain concerned during the whole period of the food crisis with the clamour for raising foodgrain prices. I do hope, Sir, there will be no wavering in this respect. This problem of the vicious spiral, increase of grain prices, followed by increases of other prices and so on, will have to be carefully tackled. If there is to be any further increase, I feel, the process will lead us faster and faster to a catastrophe.

That brings me to the nauseating business of profiteering in foodstuffs. We hear and read much about profiteering in food but we missed any indication in the Food Member's speech of the conviction of any large profiteer.

I wish to refer briefly to a matter which I think is of some importance, although it may seem to be of comparatively small importance. A couple of days ago I was astounded to read in the Delhi newspapers that the control over milk had been lifted in Delhi. Is the capital of India so overflowing with milk that this commodity can be decontrolled? It is really an astonishing situation that while other parts of the country are making special efforts to make milk available to children through special schemes—as in Bombay—Delhi should consider milk control superfluous. Surely there is one class whom we want to spare, and that is children, the hope of our future. Do Delhi children get sufficient and cheap milk now? Speaking of milk I would remind the Honourable the Food Secretary of my speech during the last food debate when I suggested that import duties on milk products should be removed, for

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instance, the heavy duty on butter imported from Australia. When we are short of butter in India I suggest that duty on such milk products like butter, etc., should be removed and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member while preparing the next year's budget will consider this question favourably.

The shortage of cattle food is one of the factors making for milk shortage. I have a letter from the Bombay Humanitarian League giving details of their approach to the Government of India for importing cattle food from Portuguese East African Colonies and British East African Colonies and how such opportunities have been neglected by the Government of India. This shows that we are not using our exports as a lever for obtaining cattle food.

As the Food Member is also in charge of agriculture I should like to state that all our present troubles are due to the woeful neglect of agriculture in the past. And the chickens are now coming home to roost. We have had commissions in the past, reports, blue-books, white papers and advertisements about "Grow More Food" in English newspapers, but the fundamental problem of insufficient production still remains. This is the time for Government to make up their mind as to what part agriculture must play in the life of this country.

In conclusion, I am sure every Member of this House realises that the organisation of food administration even in normal times is an immense undertaking, but once shortage becomes a world problem the problem becomes bigger still and one which knows no limit. We feel that Government now have a real grasp of the situation and are trying to do their best for the amelioration of the people's suffering. In spite of the criticism that I made on points of detail, I am sure Government can demand from all of us uninterrupted, loyal and consistent support, which will mean success in fighting back the danger of famine.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Sir, so much has been said and written and stated about food inside this House and outside it that it is hardly possible for one to put forward any new idea or contribute any fresh suggestion. Since the Bengal famine we have been talking of food and food has become more and more scarce. In the last two or three years we have produced magnificent plans and reports on food and we have seen more magnificent deputations of beggars to beg for food in the foreign countries. I returned from one such deputation day before yesterday, the delegation that went to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations at Copenhagen. In Commission A of that conference I did the begging for India, my colleagues did it in the other Commissions and Committees on which they were serving. I begged the Commission to give preference to India in the distribution of fertilisers and export an allotment of tractors because India was starving. Never shall I forget the shame that I suffered when I said that. There was I standing before the nations of the world admitting in so many words that though I came from a country which has unlimited man power, inexhaustible natural resources, one of the best climates and most fertile lands, with scores of long rivers and hundreds of square miles of flat ground, yet we are starving. I admitted in so many words that we were starving because we Indians were stupid and ignorant and inefficient and suffered from a lack of will and intelligence. And, Sir, these are precisely the reasons why we are starving. Our rivers, our soil, our mineral wealth is all as good as America's; our man power is greater, and yet America is rich and well fed and we are poor and starving. What is it that America has and India has not? It is the will to serve, the will to create, the will to produce. A thousand brilliant plans will not produce a single turnip, you cannot get fish by singing lullabies on the banks of rivers. If files and plans and statements and blue-books could produce food we would be the greatest exporters of food in the world. But unfortunately potatoes do not grow in files. We do not want speeches, we want action. I know the Honourable Babu Rajendra Prasad has the will and the desire to serve India, he has been given the most difficult portfolio, he has the most terrible responsibility and therefore the greatest honour. I

know he will try his best, but that is not enough, we all must try our best. As long as there is one unfed child in India we have no right to raise our head with pride or talk of our culture or civilization or religion. There is no room in a hungry man's stomach or head or heart for anything else but hunger. A starving man knows no other God except bread. Food is the first duty and highest responsibility of every Government, everything else is secondary. There is no point in teaching a child geography when you should be giving him potatoes. There is no sense in making laws for a hungry people, hunger neither understands nor needs laws. It needs food. I know that you all realise this, but what I want to point out specially is that we must not forget that it is the farmer of India and not the soil of India that will produce the food of India. You forgot him and he undeified you, you condemned him to a life of ignorance and poverty and disease, and nature made you pay for it a horrible price, famine. I am glad you have remembered him at last. He is the real problem. You will dam the rivers and plough the fields and have the fertilisers but you will still starve until you educate the tiller of the soil and make him intelligent. Arm him with knowledge and understanding and he will beat hunger for you, nothing else and no one else can. The blind farmer of India is the great obstruction to the greater production of food in India. For example take the case of manure. Go to any Indian village and you will see stacks of cowdung cakes and the immediate consequence,—undernourished children and wretched crops. Do you think that if the mother of these half-starved children understood and knew that everytime she burnt a cake of cowdung she was burning away one solid meal from her child's food, she would do it? No Indian mother would, she would rather burn out her eyes. She does not know it but she must be made to understand it. I had exactly the same difficulty in my own village. I quarrelled with my people, I pleaded with them and I even threatened them but they still continued to burn cowdung cakes. I persuaded the men but I could not persuade the women, the only way they could cook their food was with cowdung. So three years ago I planted a few quick-growing trees for them and allotted them to various families. When they got a little fuel they saved a little manure, and this year I had the best crop in my land because they had a lot of manure. Next year I hope to get a better crop because they will have more fuel next year.

This brings me to the suggestion that I want to put before the House. My Honourable friend Mr. Lawson said the other day that food and agriculture were complementary to one another and he was glad to see them under one Member. I want to go further. I claim that more food is possible only if all the departments of Government co-ordinate to produce it. The farmer must be taught by word,—that is the Information Department, then by deed,—that is the Agriculture Department. The P.W.D. must make dams and canals and wells and make farms to market roads. Communications must give him better transport, Industries must give him fertilisers and science must give him improved seeds. If you look deeply into the subject you will be shocked at the number of wheels that you will have to turn before you can hope for any progress. Therefore I propose that we make an organisation modelled on the lines of the international organisation of the F.A.O. (Food and Agricultural Organisation) of the United Nations. This organisation must be made responsible solely for the production and distribution of food in India. It should be given the supreme authority over the provincial Governments and their provincial projects and the central departments in the matter of food. It should be a society of missionaries who will consider the feeding of Indian children holy and noble enough to give up their life to it, and we on our side must give them the power, the trust and the chance to make good use of their lives in the service of India and that is the quickest way, and to my humble understanding the best way and the only way of getting more food for India.

That is all that I have to say about the production of food. Now a word about consumption of food and I am through. If you want to get the best

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out of your food and your investment in it, you must eat intelligently. This is another thing we have to teach the masses of India. You must not ask for a particular variety of food that you like, you must eat what is good for you. Perhaps an example will help me clarify what I mean. Take my friends from South India. They have a famine. I am surprised they have not had a dozen instead of one. The Madrasi is a very intelligent Accountant and lawyer but he is a very unintelligent feeder. He eats only rice and he will not eat fish and eggs and meat and even wheat.

An Honourable Member: We are now eating maize.

Khan Abdul Ghami Khan: I am very glad to hear it.

On a specialised diet like that, the chances of starvation are much greater than for more general feeders, like the Pathans or the Punjabis. You must eat what you can get until you can produce what you would like to eat. India may pay crores of rupees this year to subsidise rice for you, but we cannot do it every year. You must eat what India produces—corn, wheat and bajra, eggs and fish—yes, Sir, fish—you cannot starve a human child because you feel sentimental about fish. You cannot be an intelligent eater and orthodox at the same time. The animals that had specialised food were the first to fall in the struggle for life. They are all extinct. It is unreasonable to say that I must have rice and chilies or I am going to starve, so help me God. No, you must eat whatever will keep body and soul together. You will get a little more brawn—and possibly a little less brain, and the result will be a better Madrasi.

The English, who are an infernally sensible race—and too much so, as we have found to our cost—are very intelligent about food. They have mechanized their farms, and they are short of meat and so what do they do? Why, they have eaten up all their horses. When you get Vienna Steak in London you must understand that in plain English it means plain good old plough horse.

I wonder when India will learn that there is no virtue in eating a turnip and no crime in eating a horse. For neither the turnip nor the horse is what matters. The only thing that matters is the strong and healthy young body which is the only house for a perfect mind, which is the only hope of a perfect nation. Feed India and educate her and you need not worry about the future of India. It will be greater than you have ever dared to dream.

I thank you, Sir.

Sri E. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I pay my tribute to the Honourable the Food Member for having appealed to the members of this House and also the public for co-operation in his efforts. And I also pay my tribute to the Food Secretary for having managed the Honourable the Food Member to repeat his theory against the prices.

Mr. President: Before the Honourable Member proceeds further, I would like to say a word. I stated in the morning Session that in view of the large number of members who wish to speak there should be a strict time limit and the speeches should be as short as possible and should deal with points which have not already been brought out in the debate. That is the only way of having the maximum number of points and suggestions brought to the notice of the House and to the notice of the Government. Though I do not want to fix any rigid time limit, but I think ten minutes should be sufficient for expounding any further points which Members have to place before the House. Members should therefore see that they do not exceed five minutes if possible or ten minutes at the most.

Sri E. Venkatasubba Reddiar: I would like to address myself only to the question of prices and not to other points. I was surprised to hear that the Honourable Member will not support any rise in the price of foodgrains. I think it is partly due to the work of the Department, but he argued a bad case good

lawyer that he is in order to convince this House and also the public against raising the prices. But I would like to expose some of the fallacies in his arguments.

He said that he must look after both the interest of the producer and the interest of the consumer. Nobody denies that. What is it that the consumer would like to have? Would he like to have his rice or wheat at the cost of the producer? Now, he has not taken into consideration the cost of production of rice or wheat. So far as we are concerned, coming from the South I shall give some figures for raising paddy crop on an acre of land. If it is a dry land it comes to 120 rupees and if it is a wet land it comes to about 80 to 85 rupees per acre. I will request the House to bear with me if I go into details because I find I am the only person here in this House who has been fighting for the rise in price.

The cost of preparing seed beds and manuring is Rs 15 per acre in my district. Preparation of land comes to 21 before it is transplanted. The cost of transplanting and removal of seedlings comes to about Rs 8 per acre. Manure is required at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ bags of oil cakes per acre, and the controlled rate is Rs 9.4 per bag although we never get it at the controlled rate. It comes to Rs 41.10. The land revenue on wet land comes to Rs 6 to 8 per acre, and harvesting charges Rs 15. All this taken together works out to Rs 85 per acre. What is the normal yield in India? We have got agricultural statistics in India and also several reports before us. They give 12 maunds of paddy per acre as the average outturn. So at the present rate of Rs 5.11, it comes to about 66 to 69 and even if you take the value of straw, which is about Rs 15 per acre, it comes to exactly Rs 84. He has nothing for his supervision charges and nothing for his establishment, and if it is a wet land he is just able to make up what he has spent on his land. But if it is a dry land he is a loser by 35 to 40 rupees. I do not mean that on an average every cultivator is losing, but that is the position. The Honourable the Food Member said that if he is a lawyer why should the cultivator go on cultivating his land. The Honourable the Food Member has not been practising for a long time. If he had been practising, he would have found that many a member of the bar is not able to make both ends meet and yet continues his practice, because they are not capable of taking up any other profession nor can they adjust themselves in any other walk of life. It is just the same with the cultivator. He has no other vocation and the other thing is from his labour on the land he hopes to get some crop. He hopes to get some grain which he would not otherwise get. So he is on the land and carrying on the profession of agriculture in order to help himself and if possible others.

The other question was raised: if as a matter of fact raising of foodcrops is not profitable, why should he not raise commercial crops or money crops? The answer is this. If you want to raise sugar cane or tobacco or ground-nuts, they are costly crops. Raising sugar cane in my part costs Rs 400—500 an acre and ground-nuts cost Rs 100—120 per acre. Many of these people find it difficult to raise those crops. The other reason is that the Provincial Government of Madras prohibited the growing of ground-nuts and money crops in March of last year. He argued if the level of price was raised the consumer could not pay and it would be a burden on the consumer who would not be able to meet his demand and get the other necessities of life. It is not true. He also quoted from some index figures that the price of rice has risen 320 per cent in the index. But from the reports of the Agricultural Statistics of India, 1938, I find that in Madras the rice price has been Rs 3.14 per maund and the present control rice price fixed by Government is Rs 8.9 per maund. It comes to 220 per cent and not 320 per cent over the pre-war level.

Mr. B. E. Sen: That is the all-India index.

Sri E. Venkatasubba Reddiar: I am giving figures for my province. Then he quoted that sugar has not risen in price. That is because it has been controlled from the beginning. Compared with other articles, the price of sugar has been kept very low.

[**Sri R Venkatasubba Reddiar**]

What about the needs of the agriculturist? Some of my friends have said those needs have gone up in price. In 1941 I was able to purchase a ton of oil cakes for Rs 32. Now I am not able to purchase it for Rs 180. Labour has gone up by four times. The work turned out by the labourer has diminished in proportion to the rise in wages. We cannot get cattle, implements and the price has risen by 10 to 15 times. So we say that the agriculturist should get a fair price and if the price is raised by one rupee per maund, it does not hit the consumer. One maund is 82 lbs. Under the present ration of eight ounces per head per day, only fifteen pounds are necessary for an individual for a month. A rupee increase in the price works out at one and one fifth of a pice per day, or three annas per month. I say if it is not possible, or the producer could not expect the consumer to pay three annas increase per head for this rice, the incidence is not very much. Even if it is thought that this could not be borne by the consumer I would suggest, just as they are doing in the Railway Department, that the Government itself subsidize this food and meet the cost of conveyance, the middleman's charges and pay the producer at the rate at which the consumer is getting.

There are, the second and third sorts of rice in Madras. They are very cheap. It works out at Rs 7-11 and Rs 7-6 per maund and if it is increased by Rs 1-8 it does not hit the consumer.

So far as village rationing is concerned, we heard the Honourable Member say that people were unwilling to take some of these varieties of grains. It is true. What is happening in villages where grain is produced is that some people are given 2 lbs of paddy per week. It is not sufficient for one day's meal. He is not able to take wheat. What is retained in the village is only paddy. The other grains are taken away. I would suggest that the Food Department try its best and raise the ration to one pound.

We support this motion and we will give all help to the Food Department as appealed to by the Food Member.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs, Muhammadan urban). The Honourable the Finance Minister twisted me the other day saying that I lived in the past and did not think of the future. That is not quite true. I listened to the speech of the Honourable the Food Member with great attention. Had he been present here, Sir, I would have congratulated him upon the manner in which he simplified the whole case for us and put a picture before us which gave us clearer understanding of the situation. But I am sure, Sir, critical minds like mine, must have realized that he was just repeating a lesson placed before him by the Department. In the last session we heard this phrase, ninety days. Once we have gone over the ninety days we shall have entered the millennium so far as food was concerned. Now, the same Department has made the new Member say it is only a question of sixty days and not sixty-one. By then we shall all be happy and our poor brothers and sisters in India will get a tummy-full of full, if you will pardon the expression. My feeling throughout has been, that for reasons which I cannot fully appreciate or understand this starvation stunt of India has been overplayed. We are accustomed, Sir, to shortage of food. Our brothers and sisters have not been able to eat even one square meal a day sometimes. We have been talking of this for years and years. But I was flabbergasted when the Honourable the Food Member said that he had spent Rs 91 crores in buying foodgrains and in order to equalise the local prices and the prices at which he had brought them outside, he had to pay a subsidy of Rs 15½ crores more and yet the situation is what it is. Sir, the history of the Food Department has not been a very happy one. Lord Trenchard chose three Food Ministers in about as many months and then himself sat on that gadi and the results are what they are. Will it surprise you to learn that this word 'statistics' leaves me cold. They are never correct. I know something about the jute statistics of Bengal. You can go and talk to any one you like and you will find that they have no faith in Government statistics. Commercial houses give you better statistics. I know the case, which I think the

Honourable Member who will wind up the debate on behalf of the Department will note down carefully. They decided, here in Delhi, that a surplus area was not a surplus area. They promised to send so many thousand tons—we always talk in tons nowadays—to them there. The officials there wrote back saying that they had got so much of surplus and so they did not want any more. Train loads of grain were however sent and then the same Government of India bought that same grain at a higher price, paid double transportation charges and carried it to the area where it was actually needed. This is only one instance of incompetence of the most magnificent department the Government of India had when India was starving. They fixed prices and they are supposed to control them but does it surprise you to know that the Government itself buys at a price higher than the price—it has fixed. Can ridiculousness go any further? My own feeling is this—you, Sir, have asked us not to go into details and therefore I shall cut short my remarks—that the I C S (the Indian Celestial Service) does not understand the A B C of the problem. I wish the Honourable the Food Member had been here. I would then have appealed to him to save us from the civilians, who can only go on fattening fies but who do not know one grain from another. They sit in the offices, and smoke cigarettes. Their babus bring the files to them and they put their initials on them. They do nothing more than that. Sir, I hope the new Member, when he has got into the guts of the matter will hand over the problem of feeding India to the grain merchants. It is because the Government has come in that the merchants, in order to safeguard their own position, have done things which should not have been done according to strict principles of commerce or trade. Once these great civilians are removed, Sir our *banias*, our *memons*, our *khojas* and other grain merchants will be able to put India on a very sound basis in the matter of food. We shall get our rice, wheat, dal and oil at the normal prices that we used to pay. It is all because of this madness about internationalism which sends us with the beggar's bowl to other countries in the world.

Sir, the Honourable the Food Member suggested many ways of how he was going to increase production. Sir, the department has not drawn his attention sufficiently to the *liaison* between Government officials, zamindars and merchants. Sir black-market is not the right word. This *liaison* is more terrible. I will give you one instance. After the Bengal famine, the Government of India and the Bengal Government decided to have granaries. They bought rice from every corner in the world, filled the granaries and fixed the prices. Will you believe me that they could not sell one seer of grain, because all the grain which had been hoarded either in the zamindar's underground cellars or in the merchant's backyards came out into the market at a price lower than the price fixed by the Government. So, if this *liaison* could be broken by the Food Department, I am satisfied in my mind that there shall be no shortage. Our population is increasing and therefore we must have more food. Fertilisers should be introduced and, therefore, a monopoly should be given to a certain corporation and not open it up to the general public to establish fertilising plants in India. But there is one way of getting out of the trouble and that is to break the *liaison* between the Food Department officials and the food grain merchants and the zamindars. There is enough food in the country. I can understand the point made by the Honourable the Food Member that he has to look to the interests of the producers and he has to look to the interests of the consumers. If he can establish a balance, there would be nothing like it. But scholars and economists have found that the maximum number of media between the producer and the consumer is about 86 and the lowest about four to five. Now if they cannot break it through their monopolistic purchase policy, as they call it, then the producer does not get the 320 per cent increase the Honourable the Food Member mentioned and you and I have to pay, I do not know how many times more, for the food that we get and the poor man suffers consequently. My appeal to the Department will be please let the producer get as much as he can but bring the price of the foodgrains down as low as you possibly can. Here is a chance for the Government trying to become a real *ma bap* in the old sense of the term and get at every turn it bungles, and brings losses upon losses to the tax-payer.

[Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

During the great famine in Bengal the Government of India laid down its mighty big policies. Will it, again, surprise you, Sir, to learn that there was a revolt in the provinces. Assam was going to give us in Bengal 25,000 tons of grain but it did not give us more than 2,500 tons. The strong Governor of Bihar refused to send one single grain of rice to Bengal. Now if the Food Department is going to work through the provincial agencies, I am satisfied that it will be a new fiasco greater than any. And therefore in order to break the *liaison* and the incompetence, as I have suggested, let Government get out of this field. Let Government take up the problem of production only and leave distribution to commercial agencies who in certain cases have the experience of generations in that type of business.

I am sorry the Food Member is not here. There are other aspects of the matter to which I could speak. But if the Secretary to the Department conveys my appeal to him, to hand over distribution to men who understand know, and take back the civilians, we shall not need to go either towards the west or to Bangkok or to any other part of the world for our daily food. In this manner alone will the balance between the producer and the consumer be established.

Raja Bahadur of Khalikote (Nominated Non-Official). Mr President, Sir, I wish to congratulate my Honourable friend, Dr Rajendra Prasad, for his able and lucid speech on the food situation, and I have no doubt that he deserves to receive a well-merited tribute from this Honourable House for the masterly manner in which he has dealt with the most difficult problem of the day, so soon after his taking over charge of affairs. It is amazing to find that in spite of his advancing age and indifferent health he has so soon mastered a problem which is the most vexed of all the problems of the day. Let us hope that the approaching harvest will fulfil all expectations and that nothing untoward like cyclones and other calamities, common to our coastal areas, will mar the prospects of what appears to be a very promising season, so far.

Arising out of the speech of the Honourable Member, I wish to point out one or two matters by way of suggestions. I heard my honourable friend the Food Member say that in permanently settled areas there were no means of collecting statistics or data. So far as the permanently settled estates of the Madras area and the ex-Madras area of the Orissa province are concerned, there are facilities for gathering such statistics. In these estate areas, as well as in the ryotwari areas, the system known as the village officer system for groups of villages exists, and under this system it is the duty of these village officers who are public servants, to furnish all information and statistics to the authorities and they are the only agency on whom every revenue authority depends to gather statistics regarding the crop output. These village officers are low-paid and generally an uneducated lot, identifying themselves with the local cliques of the village. The natural conservative temperament of the villager prevents him from disclosing or parting with his stocks, and the village officer will surely make himself an enemy of the villagers if he gives a liberal estimation of the crop output. I have personally known of cases where village officers do not go to the fields or make any inquiries but just sit at home and write away some kind of a report which forms the basis of these so-called statistics. If dependable statistics are needed, it is essential to have a separate statistical machinery instead of depending upon the uneducated and ill-paid village officers who cannot be expected to turn out such work efficiently and accurately. The exact estimation of a standing crop on a field is a most difficult task and unless actual crop cutting experiments are carried out, this estimate can at the most, be approximate and sometimes vague.

There is not enough propaganda in the rural areas to induce the producer to part with his surplus stock for the benefit of others. Such is the case not only in permanently settled areas but in all areas. Another thing that tempts the producer to suppress his stocks is the control of prices by government. He lives in hopes that prices will rise further and often not satisfied with the control, he

prefers selling his stocks in the black market to his friends in the neighbourhood and sometimes, gives his stock in exchange for other consumers goods. My experience has been that the procuring agents appointed by provincial governments are, generally, not the right type of people enjoying the confidence of the producers. Instead of appointing persons who try to make a regular business of it, why not entrust the work of procurement to co-operative societies as is being done in Madras? Why not also encourage the payment of bonus as is also being done in Madras, which is responsible for bringing out such a large percentage? This will have the additional benefit of discouraging the producer from going into the black market.

I am glad that my honourable friend, the Food Member, as Member in charge of Agriculture and Food, realises that the time has come not to agree to a further rise in prices, and I may assure him that the scheme of procurement will show far better results if the producer is given straightaway to understand clearly now that there is to be no further rise of prices.

By a proper planning of trade policies the Government of India can make attempts to solve the food problem. India is getting rice from Indonesia and Siam in exchange for textiles and a financial credit of 5 crores, respectively. Government must explore similar possibilities with the countries of the Middle East and other countries. As there is now a full-fledged national government in this country today, India's prestige at the moment is very high, as was proved by the conclusion of the Indo-Argentine Food Agreement. I wish to take this opportunity to pay my humble tribute to my honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lal and his delegation for their great efforts in securing us food. It is, therefore, just the time to send out a strong delegation with full powers to negotiate and buy plant for the manufacture of fertilisers, tractors and other agricultural machinery. This government must also impress upon His Majesty's Government that it is very important that they should provide ample shipping space for carrying food to our country and to bring to our shores all this machinery which is so urgently needed.

The cost of fertilisers must be within easy reach of the agriculturists. Without making any discrimination between ryotwari and other areas, the system of giving grants-in-aid for even larger irrigation works should be adopted on an uniform scale for the simple reason that the food crisis makes no difference between ryotwari areas or any other areas.

Finally, referring to my poor province of Orissa, we are grateful to this government for providing that the share of the central government should be two-third instead of half, out of the 50 per cent grant. Loans also should be encouraged. We are thankful to providence that the province has recovered from those dreadful days of 1943 and is also doing her bit in easing the food crisis elsewhere in the country as was demonstrated by our parting with 5,000 tons of rice to Madras recently. The responsible ministry that is functioning there now will I hope, always be on the alert to prevent the repetition of a similar disaster to the one which occurred in 1943. It is gratifying to note that beneficial schemes like the Mahanadi and the Duduma projects will soon be taken up, and in this connection, may I hope that the central government will show to this poor province of Orissa the same generous consideration as in the case of other matters.

I wish to conclude now by saying that my Honourable friend the Food Member has started well in tackling the food problem on right lines and I wish him God-speed and the best of luck in this most difficult task that he has undertaken.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural). Mr. President, Sir, I confess it is painful to have to speak on the Food situation in the country for reasons which can be better imagined than described but one has to when occasion demands and circumstances permit.

The speech which the Honourable Food Member delivered the other day was a magnificent performance. The speech in which he gave a masterly survey and a careful and a straightforward analysis of the entire food situation of the

[Sree Satyapriya Banerjee]
country, neither belittling its gravity nor sounding a note of despair, will stand out in bold and striking contrast to the speeches delivered by his predecessors on similar occasions in the past. I fully realise that he has inherited a legacy from his predecessors, a legacy of commissions and omissions of which the less said the better and I do not want to take up the memories of the unpleasant past but I am glad to find that within a very short period he has been in office he has been able to create a record of policies which his speech has amply demonstrated, and I hope also, very soon he will create a record of actions, a record which would defy time and inspire confidence and courage in his fellow countrymen by his beneficent influence.

The food situation today is grave, it is dangerously menacing. There has been no improvement in the food situation says Dr. Rajendra Prasad. If that is true of the whole of India, how much more is it true of the province of Bengal. The *Statesman*, in its editorial of yesterday says while nowhere there is cause for complacency in Bengal particular reason exists for continued grave concern. Bengal, I must say, encircled as she is today, her food problem has been cast into shade and it pales into insignificance before the general political situation of the province particularly in Calcutta and East Bengal. Life is menacing. Liberty is at stake. Properties have been looted. Homes have been burnt. Sanctity and freedom of religion have been trampled under foot. Possible conversions into Islam and forcible marriages of Hindu girls with Mahomedans in Noakhali and Tipperah districts on a mass scale have taken place and the wound that has been inflicted on Hindu world by these unhappy happenings will take a long time if at all, to heal. That is the picture of Bengal now as she is today and I shall try to review the food situation in this perspective and my remarks will be confined to the problems of that province. Rice is available in many parts of the province and where it is available the prices are so high that they are beyond the reach of the poorer sections of the people of the province and it is as good as non-existent. There are also reports of death from starvation, reports which have not yet been contradicted. I have definite information that thousands of people marooned in the affected areas of Noakhali and Tipperah were, and, I am afraid, still are going without food. I would ask the Food Member, and in his absence the Food Secretary with all the earnestness and emphasis at my command to make arrangements for taking food to these affected areas immediately and save them from starvation and death. The matter does not brook any delay—that will mean sure starvation and death. I cannot, Sir, resist the temptation of quoting a few lines from the editorial of yesterday's *Statesman*. When the present communal strife began in August, many features of the food administration were unsatisfactory. Rice was selling in some deficit areas much higher than the official price, procurement was small. Government stocks were small. Distribution was uneven. In Calcutta there was no movement of surplus for a few days last week. Comment was made on the requirements of the disturbed areas in Noakhali and Tipperah. Alarming reports are coming from Mymensingh and other parts of province.

Let me now deal with the food problem in the province and offer some constructive suggestions in this regard. It is evident that the food problem in Bengal or for the matter of that, elsewhere, and anywhere in the world, has to be dealt with under the following heads—production, procurement and storage, distribution and rationing.

Before dealing with these factors let me give you some figures regarding Bengal. Bengal was declared a deficit province in 1943-44 so far as rice was concerned by 800,000 tons and the rice allotted to it was only 1,707,000 tons. Bengal was declared again deficit in the year 1944-45 by 11,00,000 tons and believe me when I say that rice was still despatched from it to the extent of 113,000 tons and this year, from 1st May 1946 to 30th September Bengal has received only 112,000 tons of foodgrains out of a total of 1,019,000 tons received from overseas. Bengal is deficit this year according to the revised estimate by 2 million tons. I hope the Honourable Food Member will give special consideration to Bengal regard being had to the deficit that stares us in the face. I will just read here

a quotation from the statement of Sir Robert Hutchings made on the 17th June 1946 regarding Bengal

"Bengal would be self sufficient this year and at any rate would not call on the centre for help at present while it is still trying to save the people of Southern India. For the present we fully intend to see the people in Southern India through the trouble. The extent to which we can help Bengal, depends very largely on the assistance we receive from outside India."

I ask the House to ponder over the situation as described in this statement in comparison with what the situation actually is today and I ask the House to consider whether Bengal does not deserve special consideration.

Sir, let me first of all turn to the problem of procurement in that province. In Annexure A to the memorandum circulated to us we find only seven lines describing the system of procurement in the beleaguered province of Bengal. I owe it to myself and to members of this House to describe in brief outline the system of procurement—how purchases are made by the Government officers in those districts in which purchases are from the very nature difficult—I mean the districts of Kluhna and Bansal and while chief purchasing agents operate in the surplus districts of Dinajpur, Burdwan, Bubbhum, Bankura, Midnapore and 24 Parganas. Procurement in all these districts is done to all intents and purposes by the big mills which are heavily concentrated in those districts and the chief agents, only because they are so, get a commission of 2 annas per maund of rice or paddy plus 3 annas for handling and storage, costing the exchequer more than a crore and a half of rupees a year. I fully realise, Sir, that Bengal being a permanently settled area it is difficult, if not impossible, to introduce monopoly procurement here and now but it is quite possible to requisition the stock of holders of paddy land of more than 25 acres and more who are required to submit their stocks to Government. Why not assess the surplus of these people and take it over at Government's purchasing price? This can be done at once without any extra cost to the Government but with the saving to the exchequer of the commission paid to the chief agents. May I ask Sir why the recommendations of the Panne Enquiry Commission and of the Brand Committee have not been carried out by the Bengal Government? Provincial Autonomy is good but provincial licence certainly not. Provincial autonomy should not be allowed to degenerate into provincial licence and when that happens, it is clear duty of the higher authorities, if I may use the expression of Rousseau, to force that province to be free.

Let me come to storage now. It is admitted on all hands that loss due to storage has been considerable. We are told that there has been a storage directorate there has been an inspection directorate and there has been a laboratory and there must have been huge expenditure on all these heads. May I ask the Food Secretary whether these Directorates have done what was expected of them and had they done so whether such huge wastage due to defective storage could or could not have been avoided. May I ask what will be the approximate amount saved from wastage on account of defective storage as a result of the setting up of these Directorates? During the last session I asked a question regarding storage in Bengal, in reply to which my Honourable friend the Food Secretary was pleased to observe—an inquiry has been made from the Bengal Government and the information will be laid on the table when received. And you will be astonished to learn the information has not yet been supplied. It was on the 3rd April 1946. I trust the Honourable the Food Member will personally look into it and put the Directorates in the working order or scrap them altogether.

Now let me turn to distribution. Distribution and procurement are complementary, they go hand in hand. They go together. Foodgrains are procured not for defective storage but for effective distribution. The detailed reports from the different districts give an idea of the disastrous situation with regard to distribution. Immediate steps should be taken to remedy this state of affairs as follows—

(1) The needs of every district for the next few months should be immediately assessed and movement of stocks planned accordingly.

(2) The bigger towns should be immediately put on full rationing.

[Sice Satyapriya Banerjee]

(3) The modified rationing scheme should be introduced extensively in rural areas, if complete rationing is not possible

(4) Supplies must be given regularly, and not occasionally as at present under the modified rationing scheme

(5) The distinction between A, B and C classes should be abolished, for such a distinction falls heavily on the B and C classes and ultimately leads to the creation of a black-market for persons denied help

(6) Assessment of local needs is generally made by Civil Supply officers without consulting public opinion. The result very often is bad with consequential chaos. This should be stopped and arrangements should be made to enable responsible leaders of public opinion to have a say in the assessment, supply and distribution

(7) The Union Food Committee must be put under strict control and supervision so that they may no longer remain bottlenecks of corruption. It is also essential that these committees must be efficient units or be replaced by some other competent machinery

(8) Sub-divisional and District Food Committees must have no executive officer as then office-bearers

(9) Prompt enquiries should be made into grievances local or general, specially in cases of corruption and communalism and strong action taken if grievances are found to be genuine

(10) Finally, the assessment of *per capita* need must not be below the minimum nutritional standard

Let me give the instance of Calcutta. For the next two months on the basis of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb *per capita* Calcutta would require about one lakh of tons of stores, but the present stock I am told in the hands of the Government is only about 4 lakhs of maunds, an utterly inadequate and a ridiculously small amount

Now, Sir, let me come to the basic problem—the problem of problems regarding food—the problem of production. The policies of the Government in this regard have been many and varied but their performances have been few and far between. The performances have only led to extravagant cost without any commensurate results. I shall not deal with short-time production that has been done already and I shall not say much on the grow-more-food campaign. I must at once say that hitherto the grow-more-food campaign has been a colossal waste of money. The expenditure on this account amounted to Rs. 72.65 lakhs in 1944-45, Rs. 103 lakhs in 1945-46 and in 1946-47 a provision of expenditure of Rs. 102.85 lakhs has been made. Sir, the Members of this House will certainly be surprised to learn that the area under cultivation of winter rice in 1945-46 has shown a decrease of 6.4 per cent as compared to the previous year. And

the yield of my poor province of Bengal compares unfavourably to the yield in Coorg and Madras. In Bengal it is about 900 lbs *per acre* while in Coorg it is about 1,450 lbs *per acre* and in Madras 1,050 lbs *per acre*. And if we look a little beyond to a country which has no intensive cultivation, I mean Egypt, we find there the yield of rice *per acre* is 1,854 lbs *per acre*. The system of rice cultivation being the same in Coorg and Madras as in other parts of India, it may be taken for granted that this decrease in yield is due to the fact that the soil has been denuded of its fertility and it has to be replenished. My time is up. I wish I had time to deal with co-operative farming, fertilisers and consolidation of holdings

One oil mine I have done. May the Food Department be infected by the dynamism and sincerity of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and may we as a result, be spared, such debates in future.

Mr. President: I think the Food Secretary will be able to do justice to his case if I give him 45 minutes.

Mr. B. B. Sen: About half an hour will be enough

Rai Bahadur Davendra Mohan Bhattacharyya (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, we have listened with interest to the very valuable speech that has been delivered by the Honourable Member in charge of Food and Agriculture surveying the entire food situation of the country. It is very good of the Honourable Member that he has kept nothing concealed from the House and he is so very sincere and earnest for the real welfare of the people concerned. I do believe, Sir, that with consistent drive we can raise India's food production up to the standard required for her present population. So far as Bengal is concerned, I may say from my personal knowledge that vast tracts of land are still lying uncultivated in western Bengal for want of irrigation projects, which, if attended to, will bring the whole area under cultivation and will go a long way in solving the food problem which is so acute in Bengal. Irrigation projects of those areas have long been prepared but we hear that they are not being executed for want of funds. I think the Honourable the Secretary of the Food Department knows some of these projects as he had to deal with one or two when he was the District Officer of Midnapore. May I under the circumstances request the Honourable Member in charge of Food and Agriculture to consider if it is possible for the Central Government to render any financial assistance to the Government of Bengal for carrying out these irrigation schemes and thereby relieving Bengal to some extent of her food difficulties.

We have been very pleased to hear that the Central Government have decided to help the poor agriculturists in small irrigation works, such as, tube wells, surface wells, etc., and the idea is that 50 per cent of the cost would be borne by the party that would benefit by it and of the remaining 50 per cent half would be contributed by the Provincial Government and the other half by the Central Government. May I know if this formula would apply to provinces which are running at a deficit? Take for instance, the case of Bengal which is at a deficit of about ten crores for the current year. If the Provincial Government fails to pay its quota will the Central Government pay the entire half and thus help the poor agriculturists of Bengal in food production?

Then Sir, the poor agriculturists of Bengal are confronted with another difficulty. Government agents for procurement of paddy do not reach the outlying villages and the result has been that the poor agriculturists of those areas are compelled to sell their paddy at rates lower than the controlled rates to middle men who have cropped up between Government agents and agriculturists. It is also reported, Sir, that if an agriculturist brings his paddy to the Government purchasing centre for sale, he is very often told that paddy is not required on that day or that the paddy is bad. The poor agriculturist has then no other alternative but to sell his paddy at a rate lower than the controlled rate as carrying the paddy back to home means unnecessary expenditure and harassment. May I suggest, Sir, that these agents should be asked to go to the village of the agriculturist for purchase and carry the paddy from there at Government expense.

There is another difficulty that the Bengal agriculturist is suffering from because of these Government agents. They pay the same price for rice which is coarse as well as fine, although everybody knows that the price for the two varieties cannot be the same. When these grievances are brought to the notice of the Procurement officers, they do nothing to remedy those grievances. May I suggest that the Department concerned should be asked to issue fresh instructions so that people may not suffer from these grievances.

Then Sir, the recent imposition of the agricultural income-tax in Bengal has probably stood in the way of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' in Bengal. The big farmers think twice before they extend their cultivation because the fruits of their labours would not be left to them for enjoyment. Therefore I request the Honourable Member in charge of Food and Agriculture to consider if the provincial governments should be advised to suspend the operation of the Agricultural Income Tax Act till India becomes self-sufficient so far as her food supply is concerned.

[**Rai Bahadur Davendra Mohan Bhattacharyya**]

Before I resume my seat, I would only like to add that the Honorable Member's speech has appealed to us most because in his speech he has claimed no credit for himself or for his department as his predecessor-in-office used to indulge in. The term 'I' or 'my department' has found no place in his speech.

Mr. President: Before I call upon Mr. Rohini Kumar Choudhuri to speak, I wish to invite the attention of the House to remove one possible misimpression. The Honorable Food Secretary said that he would require about half an hour to reply and Honorable Members might be under the impression that they can speak till half past four. I understand that there are some points which have to be replied to by the Honorable Secretary for the Agriculture Department. This debate will come to a close at about quarter past four. I believe the Agriculture Secretary will take about quarter of an hour.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department) I would require only ten minutes.

Mr. President: I send about quarter of an hour. The Agriculture Secretary will be called upon to speak and then the Food Secretary will reply.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Choudhuri (Assam Valley Non-Muslims) Sir, I rise to intervene in this debate to speak a few words regarding the plight of my unfortunate province of Assam.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by the Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yunus Khan)]

Let me make no secret of my intentions. I want to dig into the ears of the Government of India and this House the case of Assam so that they may make amends for the neglect of my province. I wish that my Honorable friend Dr. Rajendra Prasad had been present here today because we in Assam have unbounded confidence and faith in his sense of justice and sympathy for the poor people. Sir, however, we cannot grudge his absence from this House on a more noble mission of peace. Let us all hope that he will come back with the glory of success unprinted on his face. But Sir, may I add in this connection that if the Honorable Members of the Interim Government had been able to make a timely visit to the disturbed areas of Eastern India, a lot of houses which were burnt could have been saved, a lot of food which was destroyed could have been utilised, not to speak of saving human lives. Sir, I do not say this in a spirit of carping criticism because I know that this interim government is not yet a full fledged national government and my Honorable friends who sit at the back of the Treasury Benches are still powerful enough to influence the decisions of Government.

Sir, I listened very carefully, like an attentive schoolboy to the speeches delivered by my Honorable colleagues but I failed to hear a single word of sympathy for the flood stricken province of Assam. The recent floods in Assam rendered thousands of people homeless and all their crops have been damaged. Nearly 1½ lakhs of people are fed on doles every day and still not a word was heard in this House in sympathy for the plight of Assam. It is true that the All India Congress Committee, through the good offices of my Honorable friend Sardar Patel granted a sum of Rs. 25,000. But that is a drop in the ocean. Yet we appreciate that. But what have my Honorable friends of the Muslim League done for the flood stricken people of Assam. Let me tell my friends of the Muslim League that the bulk of the sufferers in Assam are Muslims. But whatever the Congress or the Muslim League might do, it does not absolve the Government of their responsibility in this matter. I wish the Food Secretary would enlighten the House and say what this Government have done in order to save people from starvation. I hope he will not give the same stereotyped reply which he has given with regard to the question of evacuees from Noakhali that he has done nothing—that it was the concern of the provincial government. Is it not the responsibility of the Government of India to regulate the food policy of the entire country and find out whether any

province is suffering because of unprecedented floods or unexpected sojourn of unfortunate refugees? The flood came very late in the month of October and there was no time to sow crops again.

An Honourable Member: What about the sufferings of Bihar people? You must refer to them also.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. So far as the sufferings of Bihar people are concerned, I feel proud to say that our leaders and the members of the Interim Government have already rushed there and the statements which they have issued show that they realise the gravity of the situation and that they are doing their best to save the people there. I wish the same prompt steps were taken when East Bengal was in the throes of disaster and suffering. Apart from that, the problem of Assam is very peculiar and it is this. In normal times, we can grow sufficient quantity of rice. Now we have not only to feed ourselves at this moment, but we have to feed a large number of people whose crops have been destroyed, a large number of people who have taken shelter there and whose hearths and homes have been destroyed and unless the Government of India come to the rescue of the Assam Government it is impossible for Assam to feed this vast population. Sir, we were in a happy position just before the Government of India sought to meddle in the food problem of the province. At the time when there was no control, rice was selling in Assam at Rs. 30 a maund whereas in Bengal it was selling at Rs. 100 a maund. Now, what is the position? The producers have been left in the unhappy position of selling their paddy at controlled price of about Rs. 5 a maund whereas the Government of Bengal is getting their rice from us and selling it at a profit of fifty per cent. What is the effect of that? The Assam farmers get no benefit out of this. The Assam peasants do not get enough money to purchase their agricultural implements and to improve their husbandry. They do not get enough for their own living because with their slender earnings due to control of the prices of their agricultural produce. They do not get a proper price for their own produce but they have to pay a much higher price for purchasing other things. The only things that we want are sugar, *gur* and salt. You will hardly believe me when I tell you that at one time salt was selling in Assam in the black market at Rs. 12 a seer, and even now the position with regard to salt is very critical in that province. The reason for that is that the province of Assam has been wedded to the province of Bengal so far as the supply of salt is concerned so that if for any reason Bengal does not get a supply of salt Assam has to go without it. The Government of Assam two years ago was quite helpless in the matter, watching the people purchase salt at prices varying from Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 a seer. Should not any Government be ashamed of that? I am saying all this so that you may profit by the experience of the past and the Government of India may not fall into the same error again. Sir, if my information is correct the Food Secretary Mr. Sen was born and brought up in the province of Assam but he has already earned the distinction of being hard-hearted towards that province. In the last session he told us that the villagers of Assam were not given enough sugar or any sugar at all because they were expected to live on molasses. But what is the position about molasses? There were conflicting orders passed by the Government of India and sometimes molasses were allowed to be taken from some provinces and then an order came to stop the import. The villagers do not get sugar or sugar candy even at the time of illness, that is the position of my unfortunate province.

As regards *dal* which is not produced in sufficient quantity in the province, conflicting orders of the Government of India passed from time to time have been responsible for absolute shortage of *dal* now in that province so much so that in giving free rations Government had to get some *dal* from different provinces by seizure, but ordinary people had to go without it, and even now they are going without *dal* in many places.

Sir, I do not wish to take any more time of the House because other Honourable friends want to speak on this. I will only say that I have not been able

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to describe to even one-tenth of the injustice that has been inflicted on Assam on account of the deliberate neglect and indifference of the Government of India towards my unfortunate province which had to bear untold hardship in the last war and borne the whole brunt of it. But nothing is being done by the Government of India to help the Province at all.

Sir, I apologise to the House for bringing the lofty tone of the debate down to the level of mundane affairs of my unfortunate and neglected province.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras Indian Commerce) Sir, coming from the province of Madras which has set an example as stated in this House for other provinces to follow as well as having knowledge of many difficulties which require attention at the hands of Governments, both provincial and central, I am sorry that I have to come in at this late hour. Sir, we are thankful to my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal for getting us at a time of stress and need maize in a large quantity. Maize was welcome at the time it came, but I am sorry he seems to be thinking that we should come to an arrangement with Argentina to go on sending maize to us in future also. I may tell him that though we were prepared at this juncture to take some quantity of maize and make use of it, it is not likely that maize will be taken in future if other grains like rice and *chulam* are available. I have got my own fears whether the large number of ships that are on their way from Argentina to Madras and other ports will have their contents sold and taken up by the people. Sir, we have already got some portions of our new crop and the second crop will come in very soon, and it is not likely that when the crops are gathered people will look at maize to which they are not accustomed. So I will warn the Government of India not to commit themselves to any arrangement under which they will get grains like maize or barley to which we are not used from other countries for the use of India. I may say that it is time we came to an agreement with Burma and Siam to supply to us our needs as they need to do before the war. The main question that will remain to be solved as a long-term question will be whether we are going to turn all our lands to the production of foodgrains or whether we are going to put them to the best use that is possible economically. That is a question which we have to face. We are growing what are called money crops wherever possible. It is only where the agriculturist cannot afford it or where the land would not profitably yield economic crops that foodgrains were cultivated and also where irrigation facilities would not allow any other crop to grow. The question is whether we are going to reverse the whole policy and force people to have recourse only to the production of foodgrains to the exclusion of those money crops which are more valuable. If international trade and international relationship means anything we have to grow what we can and what pays us to grow and make it a source of exchange with other countries from which we get other commodities. England cannot think of being self-sufficient in food, it has to depend on its neighbouring countries for its food supplies and for other resources. So the question will be whether we are going to make ourselves self-sufficient in the sense that we will not depend even on our neighbours like Burma and Siam for our food supplies as we have been doing hitherto. That will be the second question which I will put to the Central Government to consider very deeply before they enter into any definite programme for the future.

Then I come to rationing. In our province we started rationing in the towns and we did very well there. But the moment formal or informal rationing was introduced in the villages the whole thing broke down, and I am saying that because I am closely connected with the administration of this formal or informal rationing in the districts. In my own district of Coimbatore what is called informal rationing has been introduced. But only two months ago I went into the accounts for a month and I found that whereas the requirement of the district was 11,000 tons per month the actual offtake for that month was 2,000 tons. That only shows that this so-called rationing is mere

eve-wash and does not mean anything. So far as the towns are concerned, as I said, rationing has done very well and I call it a success, but the moment they introduced it in the villages it broke down. What happened was this: I am glad to hear that Madras procured 94 per cent of its demand—I do not believe the figure is correct in any way, but still they were able to collect a large quantity and how did they do it? They did it because they offered Rs 2 per maund more, so that such of those as had some stock with them came forward and delivered it, and that is how a large quantity was collected. From whom? Not from all the people. It was collected from only those who were putting by all these stocks, who were evading your rules, who were keeping things which they ought to have surrendered voluntarily. It seems to me that the whole policy will have to be reviewed. There is the engine of repression in the shape of these procurement officers and others. The man who suffers is not the big landlord. He is always able to purchase exemption. It is the poor land-owner who always suffers. It is the man who has got one acre, and who has got two acres or three acres, who always suffers. I proposed in the Province of Madras that all these poor land-owners who are growing foodgrains up to 3 acres ought to be exempted from this system of procurement. They should be allowed to give whatever they have got and their surplus may be sold in the open market. In that way we can avoid the corruption and the repression to which the villager is put and also improve the administrative machinery of Government.

As I said the well-to-do land-owner somehow escapes and the poor man suffers. This will have to be looked into in any scheme that the Government is going to formulate.

I do not want to take up more time except to say one word about the prices. No doubt the agriculturist is suffering on account of the high prices he has to pay for labour and for seeds, manure and things like that. It is especially so in dry areas where there are no irrigation facilities and he has to draw water from a depth of 10 to 50 feet and has to meet an expenditure of Rs 40 to 50 per acre when in his brother in the Deltaic areas is only paying Rs 10. In such cases help has to be rendered and the suggestion I would like to make is this. The Government ought to make available to these men, especially in the dry areas, manure and cattle feed at very cheap prices. That ought to be their first concern. Secondly in the dry areas we are importing all these grains. What is done is they are paying to us in the dry areas the same price for grains that they are paying in the wet area. The result is that grain coming to dry areas from outside cost a rupee or a rupee and a half more per maund than those procured locally. If the prices for local grain and imported grain are fixed at the same level it will help the dry areas very much. This will be only adding the transport charges and procurement charges at the place of production to the procurement price in the dry areas. This will not affect the consumers.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I shall deal very briefly with some of the important points that have been raised during the course of this debate which relate to the Department of Agriculture. The first and the most important question that has been asked is what has been the increased acreage and the increased production as a result of the efforts that have been made in the past few years. Our statistics are generally considered to be hopelessly unreliable, but the fact remains that our acreage statistics in the temporarily settled areas are probably about the best in the world. These figures indicate that comparing the average of 1936 to 1939 with the average for the years 1942 to 1945 (the Grow More Food came into operation in 1942), there has been an increase in the cultivated area of no less than nine million acres. Nine million acres of additional land have been brought under cultivation by our cultivators which were not cultivated before.

The second figure I wish to point out is that 5½ million acres have gone under food crops. After having been transferred from cotton and jute. These figures do not refer to all India. I am not talking of Indian States about which the figures are unreliable, I am only referring to British India. But I have also

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worked out the figures for the temporarily settled areas : e , leaving out Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and the figure of increased acreage is 6½ million acres. There can be no question about that figure. It is absolutely reliable and must be accepted as an enormous contribution that has been made by the agriculturists of India to solve the food problem of the country. The increased production that must have resulted therefrom is—and these are the figures that have been given to us—43 million tons out of which the temporarily settled areas account for 23 million tons, i.e., in addition to what was produced in the years 1936-39, and working it out on the basis of the increased acreage, this is precisely the figure that we would get. There is one drawback to which I must frankly refer and that point was raised by one Honourable Member and that is because of the system of procurement and distribution there is a tendency, a very marked tendency on the part of certain provincial governments to under-estimate their production. He related to the case of the Punjab. The actual figures are that that province gave us an estimated production of 32 million tons of wheat. By crop cutting experiments it was found that the production was in the neighbourhood of 39 million tons—a difference of 700,000 tons in one province alone.

In estimating what has been achieved in this connection one must also take into consideration the amount of money that has been spent. We were told the other day that in order to import food we spend 91 crores of rupees and in order to distribute that food we spend an extra 15½ crores of rupees. Have we spent anything like that on the production of food in India? The amount that has been spent in the course of the three years does not exceed more than 5 to 6 crores. How does that compare with the 15½ crores spent in one year simply on subsidizing food imported from outside? And I ask the question is to why instead of going round here and there begging for food we should not concentrate all our efforts on trying to increase production in this country? It was suggested that we should enter into long-term contracts with other countries to supply us with food. By all means if it is necessary let that be done but why should we not enter into similar contracts with our own producers guarantee them a reasonable price and say whatever you produce we will take it such and such a price. Give them this guarantee give them all the facilities that are needed and I undertake it that they will produce all that is required in order to feed India within the next five years and there will be no need to go outside in order to beg or try to obtain things from elsewhere.

Several other points have been raised. They are of comparatively minor importance. I was asked what is our programme for distribution of seed. Our programme envisages the ploughing of 20 million acres under improved seed which will produce something like 800,000 tons of extra food within the next year.

References were made to co-operative farming. In reply, I gave to a question only this morning, I explained that the Government have already decided to take up experimental work in connection with co-operative farming in the Delhi Administration area.

So far as machinery is concerned, we have been trying our best to buy and get machinery, that is tractors, from other countries, but our efforts have not been very successful. We have with great difficulty obtained a few tractors which were left behind by the Americans and we have set up a tractor repairing factory and we hope that as a result of that within five or six months we will have at least 500 tractors which can be used where they are required. I admit that there are many areas such as those growing rice where tractors cannot be brought into use. On the other hand there are many other areas where there is a lot of land which if water were available, could be brought under cultivation. There are areas which are infested with deep-rooted weeds which can be eradicated by tractors and for which tractors are the only means of eradication. So there is considerable scope for the use of tractors in different parts of the country. We have also induced a private individual to start a factory for the manufacture of heavy ploughs required for use with these tractors.

As regards fertilizers, we are trying at the present time to import as much as we can, but in addition, we are not neglecting the importance of compost, compost-making by villagers and compost-making in towns, and we are giving subsidies for the preparation of these composts and for distributing the same to the villages.

So far as irrigation projects are concerned, I would like to mention one single instance of what one province has achieved. Within six months the Madras Government have constructed no less than 30 000 new wells, and if that one province could do that (they did it under the stress of famine) is there any reason why other provinces, provided they put their shoulders to the wheel in the same way cannot do? There are certain difficulties I fully realize. But I do think that a great deal more effort is required in this direction and I hope that provinces will come forward and try to induce the cultivators to take up these works whether of irrigation or of drainage or of soil conservation which are essential for increasing production.

In conclusion Sir, I would like to refer to the remark made by my honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Gham Khan. He characterized the Indian cultivator as ignorant, illiterate and more or less implied that he was a useless sort of creature. Well, Sir, I emphatically and entirely dissent from that suggestion. He is one of the most hardworking of people and so far as his own work is concerned, he has sufficient intelligence to understand what he is doing and what he can and should do. Give him the means, the facilities that are required, and he will produce for you everything that is wanted. Without any facilities, without practically any help, he has produced within three years no less than 3 million tons of extra food a year. With the facilities I am perfectly certain that he would be able to produce all the food that is required for feeding the millions of India.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam, European). The Honourable Member has told us of the increased area under cultivation and the resulting increased yield. Can he tell us whether there has been any substantial increase in the yield from the previously cultivated areas?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat. The figure of yield per acre? Unfortunately we have no figures for that. The only thing we can rely upon in the shape of figures are the crop-cutting experiments which have been carried out recently in respect of wheat and rice.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena. What was the total amount of yield as a result of cultivation taken within the precincts of the New Delhi Municipality in pursuance of the Grow More Food Campaign undertaken by the officials and the Honourable Members and others?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat. I have no information on that point. But I think I did reply to a question in connection with the cultivation undertaken on the vista. I think we got something like Rs. 3,000 by the sale of the maize crop and something like Rs. 500 from the sale of the vegetables that were cultivated there.

Deputy President: Food Secretary

Mr. B. R. Sen; For one who has taken part in practically every food debate in this or the other House this debate has provided a unique experience. Such sympathy and such understanding from all sides of the House it has not been my privilege to experience before. I have however missed some very familiar features in the food debates that we have seen before. For instance, the very gentle persuasiveness of my friend Prof. Ranga, the demand of my friend, Dr. Zia Uddin for the abolishment of the Food Department for his difficulty under the present arrangements, to get rice for his *pulgu* and the anxiety of my friend Mr. Lawson for the fish in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. The food administration in no country can be a success unless there is full understanding between the people and the Government. We are now fortunate in having a National Government with one of the biggest political leaders at our head, and with all the

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Members in the House now on our side to interpret his message, it will be surprising if we do not make rapid strides in achieving the objects we have set before us in food and agriculture.

Mr Lawson by his amendment has brought before us a very important aspect of the food administration of this country. Mr Lawson deserves the gratitude not only of this House but the people of this country for the insistence with which he has emphasised the importance of preservation of food and the measures to be adopted for preserving food. This question has agitated all sides of the House for some time. During this session we have had a series of questions and supplementary questions. During this debate we have had several speakers who have referred to the wastage and have made suggestions.

There are three points on which I have been asked to reply and they are— (1) What is the present wastage in our country? (2) To what extent we have been able to prevent losses and (3) What would be the ultimate saving if we apply all the measures that we have in view. Sir, from the way the questions have been put it seems to me that the members have rather vague ideas about the whole subject. The crop production of India is about 60 million tons. About 60 to 67 per cent of the crop is retained by the cultivators for their own consumption. About 33 to 40 per cent of the crop they bring to the market in small parcels throughout the year. It is difficult therefore for anybody to say what is the wastage which is going on in the houses of the millions of cultivators of our country.

Some of the members have asked why it should be difficult to ascertain the losses in this country when it has been done in other countries. I was interested to see what was the position in other countries, particularly U.S.A. and U.K. As Honourable Members are aware, U.S.A. is one of the most advanced countries in the application of statistical science. It is also one of the most advanced countries in the application of insecticides and in the construction of modern and scientific structures for housing the grains. There is a book before me by Richard Cotton, one of the great authorities on the subject of grain preservation. The only information that he can give about the extent of losses in that country is in these terms—

"It has been estimated that as a result of their feeding activities their presence in grain and cereal products and the cost of methods employed to destroy them, this group of insects exacts a yearly toll of at least \$300,000,000 in the United States alone."

\$300,000,000 in terms of rupees would be about Rs. 100 crores. If the loss in India is about 3 million tons of cereals, in rupees it will work out at 90 crores. Thus even with all the application of science the United States has not been able to conserve foodgrains to the extent that the Honourable Members here might think. In the case of the United Kingdom it was only in 1946 that a Committee was appointed under Prof Munroe of the Imperial College of Science and Technology to make a survey of the whole position. Honourable Members will be interested to hear what that survey brought out.

"The most important result of the survey is that it demonstrates the occurrence of infestation throughout all the industries producing, housing, transporting, trading in, manufacturing or using cereals and cereal products. To those who have had experience of infestation in other industries who have endeavoured to assess the extent of infestation in them and have now been privileged to carry out this survey with the co-operation of the grain industry the outstanding feature of the survey is the fact that infestation is no longer concealed."

I have not found in any publication relating to grains in the United Kingdom any reference as to the extent of losses. Sir, it is difficult for any administration to find out the losses in the country. This figure of 3 million tons for India is only an arbitrary figure and we cannot give any more exact figure than this.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: How will you calculate on losses?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The point I was making was that it is not possible in any country to say with any exactitude what the grain losses at any particular moment are

Diwan Chaman Lal: Would it not be correct to say that the losses here would be greater than the losses in a country like the United States of America, which has gone in for modern systems of preservation?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The House would like to know what we are doing or what we propose to do with a view to prevent wastage in this country and to have a few figures in order to understand the question in its proper perspective. In the United Kingdom where there are warehouses and silos constructed on up-to-date lines, this is what the survey revealed

"The following data, obtained from the examination of the various consignments in the port warehouses and graneries seen during the survey, indicate the extent and nature of the infestation under the three main methods of storage. Of 3,316 consignments seen, 46 per cent were infested. The infestation was distributed as follows, silos 31 per cent, bagged grain 59 per cent, and bulk grain 75 per cent. In the general warehouses at the ports, 65 per cent of the consignments of feeding stuffs were infested, and in the mill warehouses 60 per cent.

The survey was carried out by one of the best authorities on the subject, and there can be no doubt about the correctness of the results. If this is the picture in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the House will not be surprised if I am not in a position to state here and now what is the wastage in the country.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: The Honourable Member mentioned silos. Does it refer to cattle food or human food?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Cereals of all kinds.

As regards saving, the corollary is that it will not be possible to say with any exactitude what the real saving would be. Honourable Members will ask why it is not possible for government to ascertain the extent of losses in government storage. So far as the Central Food Department is concerned, there are three depots established at Karachi, Calcutta and Bombay functioning under their auspices. I have got a paper before me which gives a survey of losses in our storage over the last few months. According to this survey a total loss of 30 tons of indigenous and 34 tons of imported foodgrains has occurred at the Karachi depot since April 1945, during which period the total quantity handled there has been 4,24,394 tons. At the Calcutta depot where 1,32,300 tons were handled, only one ton was lost. At the Bombay depot up to now no case of losses has come to notice. I do not know to what extent these figures can be relied upon, but it is clear that on a restricted scale it is possible to reduce losses to a certain extent. The survey I have just referred to makes out that the losses in these three depots since April 1945 have amounted to only 0.085 per cent as against 5 per cent for all-India, and the saving has amounted to about Rs 95 lakhs. Some members have said that if India had saved the 3 million tons which she annually loses, India would not have been compelled to import. The whole argument, if I may say so is futile. India could not possibly have saved the loss of this quantity whatever attempts India might have made in this connection.

I should also mention that even the scientific study in this subject is incomplete. One of the greatest causes of wastage is the interplay of the factors of humidity and temperature. The survey Report of Professor Munroe states

"A study of this problem of the interplay of these factors, humidity and temperature," as Prof. Munroe states "is that the infestation of grains is too little advanced to permit of an exact assessment of how it can be controlled in grain stores to reduce infestation."

The problem in India is even bigger than the problem in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom. I understand from what I have read

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that in cold climates the infestation starts within the storehouses— it does not start in the fields, but in countries of moderate temperature like India, the infestation starts in the fields. So even before the cultivator has taken the grain into the storehouse, the infestation is already affecting the grain. That is one of the factors which make control of infestation in India more difficult than in countries in the west. Again in India, as I have said the grain is very largely stored by the small cultivators— millions of small cultivators. There is therefore no sovereign remedy for this wastage in India. If the House will permit me, I will again refer to Prof. Munroe's report in this connection.

"A survey shows clearly the intensity of the amount of infestation varies with the conditions of trade and the conditions prevailing in grain stores and that the most remedy is already at hand in the rather practical form of improved hygiene or cleanliness."

This is the simplest and for conditions in India the most effective remedy. It is easy to say that producers should store under hygienic conditions, but this is a matter which is closely bound up with the living conditions. It cannot be done by merely issuing instructions or propaganda leaflets. It is a matter of education, it is a matter of raising the level of the economic conditions of the people. It is therefore clear that if the House expects that by the time we come to the next budget session I shall be able to get up and say that I have reduced losses of grain in this country by 50 per cent they will make a mistake.

Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan Bhattacharyya. May I submit one thing that generally in rural areas farmers allow a rebate of 2½ seers per maund if one year has passed and that the amount is deducted from the storekeepers' Otherwise he is responsible for that.

Mr. B. R. Sen: That only shows that traders in this country take losses for granted, so long as they do not suffer any financial loss over the transaction, they are content. But the problem here is different. We have got to conserve food. We are not concerned with what profit the individual traders make. The House will no doubt ask me, what government is going to do in this matter? So far as the cultivators are concerned, we think that there should be sustained effort on the part of the provincial and state governments to educate the producers in this matter as far as possible. We have started training courses for officers of Provinces and States. Several courses have already been held. We propose to supplement these by regional courses so that a larger number of people can be trained with reference to local conditions. We have asked the universities to include study of grain preservation as one of the subjects. In these ways, if sustained effort is maintained we think, in a reasonable time, the losses could to some extent be reduced.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I interrupt my Honourable friend? Has not Government considered the possibility, as was pointed out by me in my speech, of considering the plan adopted by Canada of preservation of grain on a co-operative basis by having co-operative elevators? The difficulty will not arise, the farmer will not have the grain, he will get a certificate and he will get an advance and the grain will go straightaway to these elevators, cleaned and preserved.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall come to that point a little later. So far as traders are concerned, we have done one thing. We have advised the provincial governments that they should introduce a system of licensed warehouses that traders will be given permits to trade in grains only when they have got warehouses up to certain standards. We have also made available to traders who have shown any interest, modern designs for new constructions and in this way we think some progress will be made.

Mr. Chaman Lal has referred to the development of what is called the over-normal granary. This has engaged our attention for some time past. It is, however, a matter which will require sustained study and con-

detable propaganda on our part. This would mean a fundamental change in the trading methods of this country. We know that this has been tried with success in South Africa, in the United States and in Canada. We should study this subject and see if we can introduce the system in this country.

So far as the Government storage is concerned, I have already said that one of the things that government has done in the past two years is to construct new storage. I have given the figures—12 lakhs of tons of storage has been built by provincial governments, 11½ lakhs tons of storage has been built by the state governments, the Government of India has also constructed about 1,95,000 tons storage at the main ports. The question of government storage is assuming added significance at the present moment. We have just received the report of the Krishnamachari Committee which was asked to go into the whole question of stabilisation of agricultural prices in the postwar period. One of the recommendations they have made is that a machinery should be set up for stabilising prices and in order to do that, it should be prepared to buy when prices are falling beyond a minimum limit and to sell when prices are rising above the maximum limit. That would require provision of storage for nearly two million tons.

Apart from that, there is also the proposal for building up an emergency reserve for preventing famine in future. This year we have had a bitter experience and we do not want that experience to be repeated. We must build up sufficient reserves in this country. I may say that the Policy Committee which sat in 1943 and which produced the blue-print on which we are working for the last three years suggested that we should build up a reserve of half a million tons. When they made that suggestion they were, however, not thinking of prevention of famines—they were thinking of the maintenance of price structure and keeping under control speculation. But even that comparatively small reserve of 500,000 tons we have been unable to build up in spite of our most strenuous efforts during the last three years. At only one stage it was at the end of 1944 we had in our hands what we could call a reserve of 120,000 tons, at the end of that year we had a serious

S P M shortage developing in the United Provinces and we had to disperse all that 120,000 tons to meet the situation there.

We have not yet given full consideration to the report of the Krishnamachari Committee. It is possible that the famine reserve and the reserve for the maintenance of stable agricultural prices would not be separate but would be the same. Even then we shall have to take up the construction of storage for nearly two million tons of food grains. That would give us added responsibility for devising ways and means to prevent losses in those storage godowns. Government must therefore pay intensive attention to this subject in future. I can say that the Food Department since 1944 when they established the Directorate of Storage has been doing everything possible in the matter. We cannot give you the exact results. It is not a physical possibility. But we have already made a start and we feel that we have already achieved some results.

One member asked if Government procured three million tons only this year, what had happened to the rest of the marketable surplus. As the Honourable Member knows, Government procurement does not cover the entire marketable surplus. Government collect only a small proportion of it, the rest is handled by the trade.

Mr Masani raised the question whether Government can give him an assurance that there will be no cut in the ration during the next two months in different parts of the country. He reinforced his remarks by the argument that the ration is already low and that the Food Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi passed a Resolution that in no circumstances should there be an all-India cut in ration.

Mr. Deputy President: How long will the Honourable Member take?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall take another twenty minutes.

An Honourable Member: One hour may be given to him tomorrow.

[6th Nov 1946]

Mr. Deputy President: All the days are full. I do not mind sitting ten minutes more if the Honourable Member will finish by then. He has spoken for 20 minutes already. If the House is agreeable I will sit.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: This is an extremely important subject and I would suggest that the Honourable Member should be allowed to make a full statement to the House.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall try to finish as quickly as possible. I referred to the assurance asked for by Mr. Masani. It is not possible for me to give any such assurance. We have now entered the most critical stage of the year. We are now in the last two months of the crop year. We have still got a deficit of 515,000 tons, without which there will be a major breakdown in the food administration of the country. In some parts of the country, the ration is already very low, of the 12 ounces allowed, people are not getting more than 6 or 7 ounces. During the months of November and December we need very much more than 515,000 tons to maintain the full ration scale, but if we get this we shall be able to save a major breakdown.

The Honourable the Food Member recently paid a visit to the Punjab and succeeded in persuading them agree to make available 60,000 tons of rice in November and December. We have also heard from our representative in Washington that in November and December the United States is likely to ship another 110,000 tons. That is all we have before us in order to cover the deficit. How we shall meet the balance we do not know. Mr. Masani has suggested various devices. We shall have no objection to offering a bonus at the end of the crop year just as Madras has done but there is this danger that the bonus may raise expectations in the minds of the cultivators that they would get the same higher price for the new crop. If the Provincial Governments make it clear to the cultivators that the grant of a bonus at the end of a crop year does not mean that the bonus will be added to the price next year, we shall have no objection. In fact, apart from Madras, Bengal has also adopted this device for procuring their *aus* crop. An announcement to that effect has been made a few days ago. As regards offering consumer goods, this expedient has been tried in two provinces, United Provinces and Bihar. I do not know with what success. There is a danger in that also. If the cultivators feel that they can get consumer goods in exchange for foodgrains, then they may hold back their foodgrains till they get their consumer goods and Honourable Members know that there is a great shortage of consumer goods in this country.

As regards the proposal for a differential ration according to income, this is an expedient which I believe was discussed some time ago in Bombay and probably the Honourable Member himself knows with what result. We do not think it is possible administratively to introduce differential ration according to incomes. It is the same as the means test for other purposes that has been tried in the United Kingdom and other countries, which has not been successful.

We have had two extraordinary statements from two prominent members of the House, Dr. Zia Uddin and my friend Mr. Siddiqi, that there is no famine in the country and the famine is only in the archives of the Secretariat. I know that my old friend Mr. Siddiqi who was with me in Oxford years ago is a man of ideas and I am not surprised that this is one of his ideas. But I cannot understand how my Honourable friend the ~~now~~ Vice Chancellor can entertain such an idea. If only he had taken the trouble of going to the South and seen the conditions there, he would not have made that statement.

Dr. Zia Uddin gave us a discourse about the relation of currency to food prices. I am sorry I have not been able to follow his elaborate discourse. But we have studied this subject. It is our business to study this subject. There is a Price Advisory Committee on which we have representatives of Finance, Food, Agriculture and other Departments, and representatives of producers and traders, and on the recommendations of this committee we function.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Can I have a copy of the terms of reference of this Committee?

Mr. B. E. Sen: I shall deal with this question of prices in a little more detail in reply to another Honourable Member. Dr. Zia Uddin also said that in the United Provinces cultivators are not allowed to bring their own produce to the rationed areas. I interrupted him and said that it was not correct. I have now the authority for saying that it is not correct. People in the United Provinces are allowed to bring their own produce to the rationed areas for two months' requirements, against the cancellation of their coupons for that period.

Sir, I shall now pass on to the speech of Mr. Chaman Lall. He has returned from a very useful visit and I should like to add my own tribute for the way in which he performed his difficult task. I believe Mr. Chaman Lall had to get off his plane more than once in order to argue with and convince the Argentine Government. I certainly think that Mr. Chaman Lall deserves the gratitude of the House for the tenacity and persistence with which he completed the negotiations.

Mr. Chaman Lall has made some very important suggestions. One is that for the future we should try and enter into long-term contracts with countries like Australia and Argentina as the United Kingdom has done with Canada. We also have been thinking on these lines. Already a long-term contract with Australia is under tentative discussion, though we have not had my official discussion on the subject. We shall take up the suggestion of the Honourable Member as regards Argentina as soon as we get the report of his mission.

Mr. Ebrahim Jaffer raised one point which seemed to show that there was some misunderstanding. He said that the basic plan has been abandoned. That is not correct. The basic plan exists. What we have done is to supplement and reinforce the basic plan with a monthly food budget. What happens under the basic plan is that at the beginning of the crop year we get the surpluses and the deficits of the States and the Provinces and make allocations and then we leave it to the supplying and receiving provinces to get their allocations as best as they can. This year as the resources of the provinces and states became more and more slender, we found it necessary to keep a stricter watch over the stocks of the provinces. We introduced the system of monthly budgets. Under this system at the end of the month, we know what stocks are held by the different provinces, and we aim at keeping in each province a stock of six months requirements as far as we can. The system on which we are working does not mean the abandonment of the basic plan. The monthly budget was introduced under pressure of circumstances and as soon as this pressure is removed, we shall revert to the old system. I may say for the information of the Honourable Member that when we came to frame the *Rabi* plan in April this year, the only surplus declared was 40,000 tons of wheat by Sind and 30,000 tons of wheat by Bahawalpore while the requirements exceeded 900,000 tons. So, we could not possibly at that time frame an effective basic plan. Since then we have prepared a basic plan and have, as I have said, re-enforced it by monthly food budgets.

Sir, Mr. Reddhar raised the important question of prices. I find I have not the time to go into it in any detail but I have just now—a few minutes ago—got the summary of the recommendations of the Krishnamachari Committee. I would refer him to paragraphs 21, 22 and 29 of that summary. There it is stated that a fair price should be paid to the producer. The determination of a fair price entails calculation of the costs of the different items which enter into costs of production and actual living in different parts of the country. These must vary widely. Crops produced and several other factors can only be estimated by detailed inquiries, especially planned and conducted with this object. It is therefore necessary to take early steps to create a suitable machinery for the collection of data relating to these costs. They further say that in the transition period minimum prices should be fixed at the

[Mr B R Sen]

level of fair parity prices I may say that though we have not got necessarily reliable data for the determination of agricultural prices, we have got before us the authoritative statement of the Bengal Famine Inquiry Commission I would ask Mr Reddiar to refer to paragraph 7 of the second volume of that report in which the Commission say

"We think it is clear that it should be the common object of all Governments concerned to secure as early as possible as supply conditions in the transition period permit, that the prices both of rice and wheat in different parts of the country should be brought down to a normal parity with the level of rice prices at present prevailing in Madras and Sind"

It is thus clear that the Commission, on full consideration, took the Madras level to be the level which all Governments in this country should work up to in the postwar period So, it is not that we are following an arbitrary method All materials on the subject of prices have been minutely examined by the Honourable the Food Member himself I think it is hardly worthy of Mr Reddiar to suggest that the Honourable Food Member has merely accepted what I have placed before him The Honourable Food Member has got his own judgment and he has gone through all these papers and he has come to the conclusion which he announced on the floor of the House

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. Is it open to the Honourable Member to say that it is not worthy of Mr Reddiar to make such remarks? The Honourable Member has used an unparliamentary expression and he should withdraw it

Mr. B. R. Sen: I did not mean anything more than this that the Honourable Member should have confidence in his own leader I may be pardoned if I used language which has hurt his feelings

Mr. Deputy President: Will the Honourable Member withdraw the word 'unworthy' which he used in connection with Mr Reddiar?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I withdraw

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has not the Government of Madras written to the Government of India to increase the price of rice by half a rupee per maund and the price of millets by 3 annas per maund?

Mr. B. R. Sen: They have written to us Not only Madras but some other Governments also have written to us But we have got to look at the question as a whole

I shall now refer to the points raised by Mr Banerjee about Bengal The position in Bengal can be easily understood The crop production this year as announced by the Government of Bengal is 97 million tons This is slightly below what Bengal needs for her current consumption But it was hoped that with the reduced scale of rations all round, the Bengal Government would be able somehow to scrape through The pre-war average production in Bengal was about 96 million tons including imports The average imports that Bengal got amounted to 125 to 135 thousand tons The imports thus formed a very small percentage of the total supply that Bengal needed for her consumption It therefore follows that the distribution position in Bengal cannot be stabilised till the procurement of the internal surplus is placed on a satisfactory basis The Honourable Food Member said in his speech that about 25 million people in Bengal are either under statutory ration or are under controlled distribution The actual figure is 6 million under statutory ration and about 19 million under controlled distribution If you take direct responsibility for feeding 25 million people out of 60 million, then you must have under your control about 40 per cent of your total production That is, Bengal should have had under their control about 38 million tons out of their own production if they were to feed 25 million of their population adequately Actually the quantity procured has amounted only to about 680,000 tons, one sixth of what the Bengal Government needed It is therefore quite clear why the position is so unstable in Bengal We are of the view that there is no intrinsic shortage of supply in Bengal Some of my Honourable friends might

disagree with me I can only go upon the figures supplied by the Bengal Government. Mr. Banerjee referred to the high prices and to the fact that Government exercise so little control over the market. The Government can exercise control only if Government have got large stocks with which they can play the market. At present the supply position is such that neither the Government of Bengal nor the Government of India can find the stocks for the purpose.

Then, Sir, a large portion of the population in Bengal who are under controlled rationing are not getting the benefit of the scheme. Out of 19 million people under controlled distribution only six million are getting their supplies more or less regularly. When you have got such a vast number of people who are not assured of their food from day to day, who do not know where they will get the next meal, or whether they will get it at all, the natural psychological atmosphere is created from out of which panic arises. Whenever anything happens, such as a debate in the Central Assembly on the situation in Bengal or in India generally, there is panic, and when there is panic, the producers hold back their stock from the markets which in its turn intensifies local shortages. Thus goes the vicious circle. That is a position for which, I, for one, cannot find any remedy until the Bengal Government build up sufficient reserves in their hands which they can use to influence the market and so improve and remodel their procurement arrangements as to succeed in getting a much larger proportion of the surplus from the hands of the producers.

My Honourable friend from Assam, Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, found me guilty of callousness and lack of sympathy. I can assure him that he is wrong. Now, Sir, only a few days ago we had a visit from the Premier of his province. We had a long discussion on the points mentioned by the Honourable Member. Regarding salt, it is not correct to say that Assam is welded to Bengal. Salt can now be purchased in the market independently by Assam. We told the Premier of Assam that he should make his own arrangements to buy salt in the Calcutta market. It is true that the salt price has gone up from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 since the Government of India took off their control a few months ago but it is now entirely in the hands of traders and since some Honourable Members think that traders will control the market better, well they have the benefit of this instance of salt in Bengal and Assam to ponder upon.

With regard to the complaint about dearth of sugar, I may say that the production in the country is 20 per cent less than in previous years. In previous years we used to get imports from Java in large quantities whenever there was a shortage in the country. Imports from Java we cannot expect now. Moreover there has been a change in the habits of people. In rural areas, certain classes of people used to take *gur* exclusively. Now on account of a temporary rise in their income, they prefer sugar to *gur*. This change of habit has brought in a greater pressure on the available stock of sugar in the country.

Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, I wish to ask

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have no time to give in. I think I have covered most of the points that have been raised in the debate. India has had a catastrophe of an unprecedented character. Even in a country like India where agriculture is a gamble in rains, it is seldom that we get a failure both of *rabi* and *kharif* crops. The shortage amounted to about seven million tons. The only reason why we have been able to get through this unprecedented calamity is the discipline of the people and the alertness of the administrations. I am sure, Sir, we can hope for a great future for this country when the people of this country can show such discipline under such trying circumstances.

Mr. Deputy President: The original motion was.

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration."

[Mr Deputy President]

To which an amendment has been moved

That at the end of the original Motion the following be added

and that the particular attention of Government be directed towards the matter of losses in storage,"

The question is

That at the end of the original Motion the following be added

and that the particular attention of Government be directed towards the matter of losses in storage,"

The motion was adopted

Mr. Deputy President. The question is

attention of Government be directed towards the matter of losses in storage'

The motion was adopted

The Assembly then adjourned Till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 7th November 1946

Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State
are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THURSDAY, 7th NOVEMBER, 1946

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 7th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

Mr Hugh Weightman, C S I, C I E, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

ENQUIRY INTO CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH OF MAJOR DONALD, POLITICAL AGENT WAZIRISTAN

274. *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Honourable the Member for External Affairs please state

(a) whether Government have made any enquiries into the circumstances of the death of the late Major Donald, Political Agent, South Waziristan,

(b) the right version of Major Donald's death whether he was killed by someone or he himself committed suicide, and

(c) if he was really killed by someone, what action Government have taken to bring the offenders to book.

Mr H Weightman : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Death was self-inflicted. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the *Gazette Extraordinary*, dated the 12th October 1946 of which I place a copy on the table

(c) Does not arise

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA

EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority

New Delhi, Saturday, October 12 1946

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 10th October 1946

No 286 A.—The Government of India have received with deepest regret the news of the tragic death on the 25th September, 1946 of Major J O S Donald, Political Agent, South Waziristan

Major Donald was a son of Sir John Donald, a previous Chief Commissioner of the North West Frontier Province, and his name is recalled as a household word among the tribesmen of the North-West Frontier. Major Donald had been a member of the Indian Political Service since 1931 and served in various capacities on the Frontier. As a servant of the State Major Donald followed worthily in his father's footsteps. Last June he was the victim of an unfortunate incident and was taken prisoner and held captive for 10 days by the Shabir Khel Mahsuds. After his release he returned to his post by his own wish and in the confidence that this way lay the path of duty. His presence was largely responsible for the conclusion of a settlement with the tribe, and with the settlement has dawned a renewed realization that Major Donald was a true and just man who had earned tribal respect. But the strain had proved too great and has ended in the tragedy of self-inflicted death.

The Government of India can ill afford the loss of such an experienced and distinguished Frontier officer.

G C I CRIGHTON Secy.

ILL-TREATMENT OF INDIAN PRISONERS CONVICTED IN SATYAGRAHA MOVEMENT
AGAINST GHETTO BILL IN SOUTH AFRICA

275. *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) the number of Indians in South Africa who have been arrested and convicted in the satyagraha movement started against the Ghetto Act, and

(b) how the Indian prisoners are being treated in jail, whether Government have made any enquiries about the ill-treatment meted out to the Indians in South Africa through His Majesty's Government or through any other agency?

Mr. H Weightman : (a) According to a telegram received from the Passive Resistance Council on the 21st October 1946 the total number of convictions up to that date was 1,269

(b) In August and September last the Passive Resistance Council made certain allegations of ill-treatment of the resisters by the jail authorities. The Union Minister of Justice who had ordered some investigations in the matter and also made a personal inspection of jail conditions stated that these allegations were unfounded. It was however reported that as a result of an official inspection better treatment of political prisoners had been recommended. As no complaints were voiced later it was presumed that the condition of passive resisters in jail had improved. On the 4th November a report was published in the press that the Natal Indian Congress had again complained to the Minister regarding unsatisfactory conditions in jail and harsh treatment by warders. The Government of India have not received information on this latest allegation. They receive reports usually from the Secretary to their High Commissioner in South Africa, who is still there.

Sardar Mangal Singh : Is the information of the Government of India derived only from the Secretary to the High Commissioner or do they get reports from the Union Government itself?

Mr. H Weightman : No, Sir. As I have said, we get this report from the Secretary to our High Commissioner who still maintains an office there.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

276 *Sardar Mangal Singh : Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state

(a) when the inaugural session of the Constituent Assembly will be held, and what its likely programme is,

(b) whether any arrangements have been made for the members from sections A, B and C to meet separately, if so, where they will meet, and

(c) whether the members of the Constituent Assembly will be paid any daily allowance, if so, what?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : (a) The inaugural session of the Constituent Assembly is scheduled to be held on the 9th of December. Its programme is a matter to be decided by the Assembly itself.

(b) Provisional arrangements have been made for the Assembly and its Sections to meet in New Delhi.

(c) It has been provisionally decided that members of the Assembly will be paid a daily allowance of Rs. 30 plus a conveyance allowance of Rs. 15, these being the rates admissible to members of the Central Legislative Assembly. It would, however, be for the Constituent Assembly itself finally to decide what the rates should be.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : May I know if Members of this House will be allowed the privilege of witnessing the inaugural session of the Constituent Assembly?

Mr. President : I believe that will depend upon the decision of the Constituent Assembly itself.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I presume Section 'A' will meet in the Library, may I know where Sections B and C will meet?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I have said they will meet in New Delhi.

DISABILITIES OF DOMICILED INDIANS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA (CANADA)

277. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians domiciled in the Province of British Columbia (Canada) suffer from a number of disabilities, if so, the nature of their disabilities, and

(b) what steps Government have taken to remove those disabilities, and with what results?

Mr. H. Weightman: (1) Yes, Sir. In British Columbia the Indians who number about 1,300 are denied the municipal, provincial and federal franchise. As a result of this they are debarred from certain public offices and occupations. It is understood that the following are some of their disabilities which follow from their disqualification as voters—

They cannot serve as trustees in any municipal, district or rural school or hold any municipal office or serve as jurors, they are debarred from employment by contractors for the Public Works Department and for the sale of Government timber. They cannot be registered as pharmaceutical chemists, they are also debarred from holding foreshore leases or from holding Engineer's certificates under the Public Inspection Act.

(b) Government of India have made representations from time to time to His Majesty's Government but without any success so far. Government continue to pursue the matter.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The same answer was given to me two years ago, may I know if the Indian Government have made any special representations in the matter?

Mr. H. Weightman: Yes, Sir. I understand the last reminder on this subject was sent only a week ago.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: May I know how many Indians are there in British Columbia?

Mr. H. Weightman: I gave the figure,—1,300.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

278. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council,

(b) what instructions have been given to this Delegation, and

(c) whether this Delegation will make any commitments on our behalf without any reference to this House?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) India's delegation to the last session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which began on the 11th September and ended on the 3rd October 1946, was composed of

(1) *Representative*—Sir A. Ramaswami Mudahar, who until January 1947 is President of the Council in his personal capacity, in the event, Sir Ramaswami was unable to attend the session.

(2) *Alternate Representative (in Sir Ramaswami's absence)*—Sir G. S. Bajpai, Agent-General for India in the United States of America.

(3) *Alternate Representative and Adviser*—Mr. S. K. Kirpalani, Indian Trade Commissioner in New York.

(4) *Adviser*—Professor B. P. Adarkar.

(5) *Secretary*—Mr S Sen, Officer-in-Charge of the Government of India's Liaison Unit at the United Nations Headquarters

(b) It is not at all times in the public interest to publish the instructions which Government give to their Delegations to International Conferences, and I regret I am unable to meet the Honorable Member's request for information

(c) Having regard to the functions and powers of the Economic and Social Council as defined in Article 62 of the United Nations Charter, it is not clear what the Honorable Member has in mind. As already stated, the session of the Council has terminated and I hope shortly to place on the table of the House the report of the Delegation

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN AN ECONOMIC ADVISER TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

279. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pahlwal :** Will the Honorable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether any steps are being taken to secure the services of an Indian Economist in place of the present Economic Adviser to the Government of India whose period of appointment is to expire in January next year ?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar : The attention of the Honorable Member is invited to the reply given by Sir Muhammad Azizul Haque, then Commerce Member to part (c) of the Starred Question No. 501, asked by Professor N. G. Ranga, in this House on the 25th February 1946. The position stated therein remains unchanged.

COUNTRIES TO WHICH EXPORT OF SUGAR AND CLOTH IS PERMITTED FROM INDIA

280. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pahlwal :** Will the Honorable the Commerce Member please state

(a) the names of the countries, if any, to which the export of sugar and cloth is permitted from India,

(b) the amount of each of these articles permitted to each country, separately, and

(c) the steps which Government have taken so far to prevent unauthorised export of these articles through smuggling ?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar : (a) and (b) I lay two statements on the table

(c) The administrative machinery at ports and land customs stations provides for prevention of unauthorised exports and the Defence of India Rule under which the export control regulations have been issued and which has been continued in force by Ordinance XX of 1946, provides penalties against violation of the Rules

I—CLOTH

Cotton piecegoods export allocations for the half year July—December 1946

Countries	Figures in tons
Aden, including Yemen, Hadramaut	475
Saudi Arabia	199
Ethiopia	300
Eritrea	40
Afghanistan	1,520
Arab States in the Persian Gulf	475
Australia	1,509
British East Africa, Nyasaland	1,900
Northern Somalia	20
British West Africa including Nigeria	780
Ceylon	1,095

Countries	Figures in tons
Cyprus	40
Netherlands East Indies	95
Iraq	660
Mauritius	280
New Zealand	140
North and South Rhodesia	90
Persia	340
Portuguese East Africa	15
Seychelles	40
Sudan	710
Turkey	40
Nepal	1 040
Tibet	280
British Pacific Islands	30
Burma	1 700
Other Far Eastern territories	10
French colonies	100
Total	14 990

II—SUGAR

Name of the Country	For the sugar year 1946-47 (1 12 46 to 30 11 47)
	(Tons)
(1) Persian Gulf Sheikdoms	
(a) Bahrain	3274 8
(b) Trucial Coast	1998 0
(c) Muscat	302 4
(d) Kuwait	2106 0
(e) Qadur	100
Total	7741 2
(2) Neighbouring Countries	
(a) Afghanistan	7200 0
(b) Nepal	1405 3
(c) Sikkim	230 4
(d) Bhutan	198 0
(e) Tibet	216 0
(f) French Possessions in India	462 4
Total	9712 1
Grand Total	17 453 3

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that those who are permitted to export these articles are making enormous profits owing to very high prices ruling in the countries to which these goods are exported, will Government consider the desirability of retaining these profits for the State by taking up these exports themselves instead of permitting private exports?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question of the prices at which these articles should be sold to these countries and to what extent the State can take advantage of it is under examination by Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I did not want to know about the articles which were in dealings between the State and State, i.e., between the Government of India and other States—that I leave to the Government to settle in the best way they like—but with regard to private trade in those articles in which presumably there is a very high profit from the other markets, will not Government consider the desirability of keeping those profits for the State by themselves doing the exports?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: If the transactions are between businessmen of this country and the businessmen of another country there are considerable difficulties in the way, but Government will examine the suggestion.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether any amount of sugar has been exported during the last year to other agencies apart from embassies? I understand that some sugar is exported to some embassies located in Iran and other Middle East countries. May I know whether any amount of sugar has been exported apart from that?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The only sugar which is exported is so far as I am aware mentioned in the statements which I am laying on the table.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The statement is very small. The Honourable Member can read it out.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: So far as Persian Gulf is concerned it is 7,741 tons and so far as other neighbouring countries are concerned it is 9,712 tons—total 17,453 tons.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is refined sugar or raw sugar?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That again would require examination of the detailed figures and I want notice of the question.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Government are contemplating that the negotiations for sale should be between the two Governments and not through the businessmen on either side?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: As I told you the whole question is under examination but there are considerable difficulties after decontrolling these articles. At present businessmen of this country deal with businessmen of other countries so far as these articles are concerned and Government finds there are considerable difficulties in the way, but the question is under examination.

Sri N. V. Gadgil: May I know from the Honourable Member whether exports—whether of sugar or textile—are transferable?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: They are not.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: In view of the fact that stocks of sugar in this country are insufficient to meet the requirements even of this country, will the Government consider the desirability of stopping exports of sugar altogether?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The quantity exported is very small, and it is necessary to attend to the requirements of our neighbours also. The quantity now exported is only a fraction of what used to be exported before.

Mr. Vadialal Lalubhai: Is it not a fact that many cloth permits are being sold in Bombay and other cities?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Government are not aware of the sales, but if any specific cases are brought to the notice of the Government, Government will undertake very minute enquiries into the matter.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What is the quantity of sugar exported?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have already given the figures in the statement which is laid on the table.

BOMBING OF TRIBAL AREAS IN WAZIRISTAN

†281. *Shri Sri Prakasa : Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) when the last bombing from the air took place in the tribal areas across the Western Frontier,

(b) the reasons for such bombing and the loss of life and property that took place in consequence,

(c) the expenditure incurred in such bombing, and

(d) the relation of the Frontier tribes with the present Government of India?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Between the 1st August and the 10th September 1946 when the villages of the Birmi Khel, a sub-section of the Shahi Khel Mahsuds were subjected to an proscription in connection with the kidnapping of the Political Agent South Waziristan and members of his staff

(b) A copy of the official communique issued on the termination of operations is laid on the table for the Honourable Member's information.

(c) It is not possible to state exactly the cost of these operations, but at a rough estimate it may be taken to be about Rs. 1 lakhs.

(d) The relations of the Frontier tribes, as a whole, with Government are friendly. Government have nothing but goodwill towards the Frontier tribes.

Press Communique

In view of recent public statements about the bombing of the Shahi Khel Mahsuds in Waziristan the Government of India consider it desirable that the facts relating to the operations should be made known.

2. For some time past the Shahi Khel have been demanding a one-sixth share of the monies and other benefits (e.g. controlled commodities such as cloth, iron, sugar, etc.) accruing to the Mahsuds as a whole through Government. This demand is opposed by the rest of the Mahsuds who are in excess of the hereditary share to which the Shahi Khel are entitled. Early in June the Political Agent South Waziristan informed the Chief Malik of the Shahi Khel that he would summon the Shahi Khel Jirga to Razmak to discuss the dispute. On the 19th June the Shahi Khel assembled at a village on the Indus. Razmak had to discuss among themselves matters relating to the forthcoming Jirga. It transpired later that after the gathering the Birmi Khel section decided without the knowledge of the rest of the Shahi Khel to kidnap a Government official in order to emphasize their grievances. In furtherance of this resolve on the 21st June a powerful gang hid in ambush for the Assistant Garrison Engineer who was expected to travel from Razmak to Tardoba. It so happened that the Political Agent travelled on the same day and it was his lorry which ran into the ambush. The lorry was brought to a halt by a road block and very heavy fire was opened on it. Three of the Political Agent's tribal escort were wounded but no real test force is possible owing to the treachery of the Shahi Khel villagers and Khissadhis in the vicinity. The gang closed in looted the lorry and kidnapped Major Donald Dr. Nazu Ahmed the Agency Surgeon and Mr. Abdul Aziz Sterno together with the P. A. whom they carried off to their villages about 7 miles from the road.

3. As soon as news of the outrage reached Razmak the Resident in Waziristan despatched the chief Shahi Khel Malik to the Birmi Khel with instructions to effect the release of the captives. He also summoned the full Mahsud Jirga to Razmak. This assembled on the 24th June and the Maliks were reminded that in accordance with their agreements with Government the whole Mahsud tribe would ultimately be held responsible for the offence if they failed to co-operate in securing the unconditional release of Major Donald and his companions. The Mahsud Jirga strongly condemned the outrage which they regarded as a stain on their tribal honour and promised unanimously to proceed to the Birmi Khel and not to return until they had released the captives.

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent

4 The Bromi Khel, however, proved truculent and demanded a sum of Rs 60,000 and a promise of immunity from punishment as the price of releasing their prisoners. As a guarantee of immunity they also demanded that the Mahsud Malikhs should deposit with them 50 magazine rifles, or in lieu, a further sum of Rs 50,000. These terms were conveyed to the Resident who in accordance with established policy declined to pay any ransom or to make any promise of immunity. At the request of the Malikhs he however advanced them the sum of Rs 1,10,000 making it clear that this would be recovered from them as a matter of course and that if they made it over to the Bromi Khel they would do so on their own responsibility and not on behalf of Government as ransom. Later it transpired that the whole of this sum was in fact handed over to the Bromi Khel and ultimately, after some further negotiations between the Mahsud Malikhs and the Bromi Khel Major Donald and his companions were released and brought into Razmak on the 2nd July.

5 It now became necessary to call the Shabi Khel to account for the offence. Although actually carried out by the Bromi Khel section it had been committed in territory for the protection of which the Shabi Khel as a whole is responsible and had been actively aided by the treachery of Shabi Khel villagers and Khasiulais. The Shabi Khel Junga was therefore summoned to Razmak to discuss reparation with the Resident. Despite several extensions of the date originally fixed the Shabi Khel refused to come in and it became gradually clear that their object was to evade responsibility for the offence in the hope that punishment would be spread over the whole Mahsud tribe. Other sections of the Mahsuds however made it unmistakably clear that they were determined that the Shabi Khel alone and the Bromi Khel in particular should be punished. Leading Mahsud Malikhs in fact advised the Resident that unless Government took action without further delay, against the Bromi Khel serious trouble would probably break out among the remaining Mahsuds who were becoming apprehensive that punishment would be visited on them.

6 It was accordingly recommended by the Agent to the Governor (General) that the following terms should be intimated to the Shabi Khel and that failure on their part to comply within a stated time should be followed by destructive air proscription, after the usual warning of certain areas in Shabi Khel country—

(1) The repayment of the money (Rs 1,10,000) received by the Bromi Khel from the Mahsud Malikhs. Although this sum was recoverable from the Mahsuds as a whole failure to attempt to recover it from the Bromi Khel would not only have put a premium on kidnapping but would have invited hostility from other Mahsud sections who felt strongly that punishment should fall on the Bromi Khel or at most on the Shabi Khel.

(2) The payment of Rs 20,000 as compensation for property looted and damaged and 10 persons wounded in the commission of the offence.

(3) A fine of 50 arsenal made and 200 other 303 magazine rifles.

(4) The surrender of 20 Shabi Khel hostages (as an earnest of compliance with the terms and of future good behaviour).

7 After full consideration these terms were sanctioned by Government on the 25th July and announced on the 26th July to the Shabi Khel by radio transmitted by the warning that failure to comply by the 30th July would render them liable to punishment. The Shabi Khel having failed to comply by the 30th July further leaflets were dropped on their villages by aircraft and also distributed by hand warning them that on the following day certain of their villages would be placed under destructive air proscription. They were advised to vacate these villages with their families and their animals and not to return until informed that it was safe to do so.

8 Air operations against the proscribed areas commenced on the 1st August. Destructive action was confined to villages inhabited exclusively by the Bromi Khel. Operations continued throughout August except when the weather made accurate recognition of the selected targets impossible. Six groups of Bromi Khel habitations were severely damaged but so far as is known the only tribal casualties were 5 persons killed and one wounded by a bomb which was released accidentally on a village outside the proscribed area. Throughout these operations the rest of the Shabi Khel and other sections of the Mahsuds held aloof from the Bromi Khel and gave no indication of helping them. Early in September the full Mahsud Junga approached the Resident and stated that the Shabi Khel were now willing themselves to repay the whole of the sum (Rs 1,10,000) advanced to the Bromi Khel by the Mahsud Malikhs and to guarantee compliance with the rest of the terms. The Mahsud Junga having confirmed the good faith of the Shabi Khel this offer was accepted by the A. G. G. and orders were at once issued (on the 10th September) terminating air proscription. The Shabi Khel have since come into Razmak and are implementing their undertakings in a satisfactory manner.

DATE OF SESSION OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

†282 *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state when the Constituent Assembly is likely to begin its sessions and the amount of time it is likely to take to finish its work?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The inaugural session of the Constituent Assembly is Scheduled to be held on the 9th of December. Government are not in a position to say how long it is likely to take to finish its work; that will depend on the Assembly itself.

ABOLITION OF SYSTEM OF GRANT OF TITLES

†283. ***Shri Sri Prakasa :** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state

(a) If it is a fact that large numbers of honours and titles, both English and Indian, are given to Indian nationals from time to time on behalf of His Majesty the King, and His Excellency the Governor-General, which are generally known as titles bestowed by Government, and

(b) if Government are considering the making of a representation to His Majesty the King and His Excellency the Governor-General not to bestow any such titles on Indian nationals?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : (a) Yes, honours and titles are not conferred by the Government of India but by His Majesty the King and His Excellency the Governor-General on behalf of His Majesty.

(b) The matter is already under the consideration of the Government.

DELAY BY MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS IN ATTENDING TO ORDERS FOR GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

†284. ***Shri Sri Prakasa :** Will the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state

(a) the amount of time on an average that the Manager of Publications takes to attend to an order for Government publication,

(b) if it is a fact that many orders placed with him are not attended to at all and

(c) whether Government propose to direct the Manager of Publications to expedite matters, and if he is unable to meet an order, to inform the party concerned immediately and also assist that party by telling him as to where the particular Government publication can be obtained if at all?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale : (a), (b) and (c) The Controller of Printing and Stationery reports that the Manager of Publications generally takes on an average about a week to attend to orders. He further reports that all orders are duly attended to. It appears, however, that occasionally heavy arrears have accumulated in the Central Publications Branch mainly due to the enormous volume of work in connection with military requirements and partly also because of inadequacy of staff to cope with the increased volume of work. The matter is being examined and the Manager has been asked to take necessary steps to avoid such delays, and in case he is unable to meet an order to inform the party concerned in the manner suggested.

LICENCES FOR EXPORT OF CASTOR OIL

285. ***Mr. Vadlal Lalubhai :** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that export licences for exports of castor oil are not granted freely?

(b) Are Government aware of the very harmful effect that this policy has on the indigenous castor seed crushing industry and the resultant loss to the country as a whole? Are Government aware that this has resulted in a serious loss to the country's agriculture also, due to the loss of oil-cakes which are a very high grade fertilizer for agriculture?

(c) In view of the fact that castor oil is inedible, will Government explain why export licences are not freely granted?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(d) What do Government propose to do to protect the indigenous oil crushing industry which is in a precarious condition owing to the stoppage of Supply Department's orders for locomotive lubricants due to the availability of aviation spirit?

(e) Are Government aware that prior to independence seed was being exported in bigger quantities than castor oil and that the industry flourished only during the war?

(f) Do Government propose to see that a general export licence for castor oil is granted at an early date so that India may not have to suffer by exporting castor seed?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (i) Exports of castor oil are allowed on the basis of quotas which are fixed after due consideration of the requirements and the supply position in the country.

(b), (c) and (f) Government do not consider that the present policy is in any way harmful to the crushing industry or involves any national loss. Castor oil is being used in the country for industrial purposes in increasing quantities and free exports of oil will be harmful to the country's interests. Quotas of oil and seeds are fixed on the basis of available supplies taking into account the crushing capacity in the country.

(d) Recently Government have decided to allow export of an additional quantity of 8,000 tons castor oil. Further in view of shortage of supplies of linseed oil, there is now an increasing tendency to use castor oil for paint manufacture. It is considered that this will assist the crushing industry in disposing of the stock becoming surplus due to the stoppage of Supply Department's orders.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it not a fact that oilseed is being allowed to be exported in big quantities?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Oilseed which comes to be crushed in the country looking to the crushing capacity of the factories here is allowed to be exported.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that the British Food Minister has been allowed 15,000 tons of castor seed and the local industry is not allowed even to export castor oil?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have already mentioned that the export of castor oil in limited quantities is allowed and now 8,000 tons more is being allowed.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Government not allow the industry to export castor oil to its full capacity instead of allowing exports of castor seed?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: According to the information at the disposal of Government this is the only quantity that can be permitted to be exported looking to the requirements of the country.

Sr. N. V. Gadgil: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is the policy of the Government to encourage export of primary commodities as against processed or manufactured articles?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No.

CONTROL ON EXPORT OF COTTON HARD WASTE

286 ***Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that in spite of the insistent demand from the parties concerned the exports of cotton hard waste are rigidly controlled?

(b) Are Government aware that these controls are maintained for the benefit of foreign buyers to the detriment of this country's interests?

(c) Have Government received any representations from various bodies to lift the controls on export of cotton hard waste? If so, what action have they taken?

The Honourable Mr I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Export of cotton hard waste has been decontrolled from the 1st November 1946

(b) and (c) These do not arise

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether there is still price control on hard waste?

The Honourable Mr I I Chundrigar: I want notice

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that if there is a control on the price of hard waste the foreigners will benefit to the extent of the difference between the ruling price in this country and the price in foreign countries, which is nearly double than what prevails here?

Mr. President: It is both hypothetical and a matter of opinion. Next question.

EMPLOYMENT OF SERVICES & PROTECTION OF LABOURERS' EARNING A MINIMUM WAGE

287 *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state—

(i) whether Government have considered or are considering ways and means through legislation or otherwise, for giving a labourer the position and status of a shareholder in the concern that such labourer serves; and

(ii) what steps are being taken for fixing a minimum wage for a labourer?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (i) No

(b) The Minimum Wages Bill is already before the House

CONTROL OF EXPORT PRICE OF JUTE IN BENGAL

288 *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal. Will the Honourable the "Commerco Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement of the Honourable Mr H S Suhrawardy, Premier of Bengal, charging the Government of India that the control of export prices of jute as promulgated by the Government of India will have the effect of depriving the jute growers of such price as would be available, but for such control

(b) whether Government of India propose to clarify their policy in the matter;

(c) the reasons for taking such steps as adversely affect the position of jute price in the country;

(d) how the Government of India propose to counterbalance the obvious loss to the jute grower; and

(e) the present price and the control position in the different Provinces producing jute?

The Honourable Mr. I I Chundrigar. (a) Yes. Sir

(b), (c), (d) and (e) I lay on the table a copy each of the two Press Communiqués issued by the Government of India on the subject in which the position has been explained

Press Communiqué

EXPORT PRICES OF JUTE DECONTROLLED

ENHANCEMENT OF EXPORT DUTY

The Government of India have decided to terminate the Jute Export Control Order, 1946 with immediate effect

This Order it will be recalled, was conceived as an anti-inflationary measure as also with the object of ensuring that supplies of packing material were made available at reasonable prices to all countries of the world for facilitating the movement of cereals

The Provincial Governments concerned, however, did not take steps to continue the control over internal prices, with the result that jute prices in India have increased sharply while exports have been dislocated. In the long run controlled export prices of jute and jute manufactures cannot fail to influence the internal price level but this would involve a long process resulting in undesirable fluctuation of prices and dislocation of trade. The Government of India have, therefore, decided to withdraw the price control over exports.

At the same time, in order to reduce as far as possible the inflationary effects of uncontrolled export prices, the Government have decided to enhance the export duty on raw jute and jute goods. The high prices resulting from decontrol will benefit the growers of this commodity and a substantial part of the proceeds of the enhanced export duty will accrue to the principal producing provinces.

The Indian Tariff Act Amendment Ordinance 1946 promulgating the new rates of duties has issued in a Gazette Extraordinary.

The Government of India intend to continue the quantitative control over exports of raw jute and jute goods so that exports of Indian jute may be equitably distributed among all countries of the world.

Press Communiqué

With the expiry of the Defence of India Act and the Rules framed thereunder on the 30th September 1946 the control of internal prices of jute and jute goods will revert to the Provinces.

In view, however, of the responsibility that devolves on the Government of India for the supply of packing material at a reasonable price to all countries of the world so that the free flow of commodities from surplus to deficit areas may not be impeded and the urgent need that exists for containing inflation and also having regard to the larger interests of the country as a whole the Government of India have decided to continue the Export Price Control provisions of the Jute (Price Control) Order 1945. An order incorporating these provisions is being issued in a Gazette Extraordinary on the 1st October 1946 under Rule 84 of the Defence of India Rules as continued in force by the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance (Ordinance XV of 1946).

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT,

Dated New Delhi the 30th September 1946

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honorable Member explain why the export control order was withdrawn and the export duty was simultaneously imposed?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The price of jute in the Province of Bengal went up and there was such a great demand in foreign countries that people were willing to buy at much higher prices, and the Government of India thought that this was an opportunity which could be availed of to impose a higher duty on export and get some money both for the benefit of the jute growers and the country.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honorable Member be pleased to explain how the Government of India propose to use the entire outturn of this export duty?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Government of India have laid down rules on the subject. There was already a duty before. The duty has now been increased and the use of the amount realized by the duty will be in the same proportion as is laid down in the existing rules.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: When this export duty was imposed were all the relevant Provincial Governments consulted?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I am not aware of it. Probably the time was too short to consult them about it.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqui: Will the Honorable Member kindly tell us whether in filling the pockets of the Government through this higher duty they are not robbing the cultivator?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: To a slight extent the cultivator will lose the money. But a large portion of the income from this duty is used for the benefit of jute growers. This is under the existing rules.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Will the Honourable Member in Charge kindly inform the House whether this decision of levying an export duty was come to after consultation with New York and Washington?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I do not think so. I would however, require notice of the question.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Is it or is it not a fact that the ceiling price of raw jute as well as what the Americans call burlap was fixed under the dictation of New York importers?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I do not think so because New York will have to pay a higher price with the increase in price.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether after having passed this order in so short a time the Government of India have had communications with the relevant Provincial Governments and have asked them for their opinions on this matter?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: For the moment it has not been possible to do so. But in course of time the position will be re-examined in consultation with the provinces.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Is Government aware that a situation of very considerable confusion now exists in the jute trade in all its Branches as a result of restrictions of the raw material and a removal of control on the manufactured goods and the negotiations going on with the Government of Bengal whereby this state of confusion may be terminated?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I do not think there is any confusion now. The position has been clarified after the second press note.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I heard the Honourable Member say that there was a considerable and very keen demand for the jute products in the world. If that is so have Government considered that the bulk of the export duty while those conditions continue will be borne by the foreign producer of jute?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That will depend on the position in the market. Normally it will be passed on to the foreign producer.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is this duty not imposed as a kind of punishment on the Government of Bengal for refusing the demand of the Government of India about the control? And what would happen if the Government of Bengal refuses to allow this jute to go out of Bengal altogether?

Mr. President: The latter part is hypothetical. The first part may be replied to.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: May I have the question repeated?

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member repeat the first part?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is this duty not imposed as a kind of punishment on the Government of Bengal for refusing the demand of the Government of India for not agreeing to retain the control?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: All that I can find from the papers is that the Government thought they could utilise this opportunity for the purpose of having some revenue. I was not in charge of the Department when the decision was taken.

Mr. President: Next question. Mr. Madandhari Singh.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH U.S.A.

290 *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) the nature of the trade agreement with the United States of America, and

(b) whether there is any control over the change of Dollar which hampers the free trade between this country and the United States of America, if so, what and why?

[7TH NOV. 1946]

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) It is not clear to what agreement the Honourable Member refers. No trade agreement has yet been concluded with the United States of America.

(b) Yes, Sir. The nature of, and the reasons for, the control are explained *auto alia* in the Press Note, dated the 7th October 1946, a copy of which is laid on the table of the House.

Press Note

INDIA'S DOLLAR EARNINGS AND EXPENDITURE
POSITION EXPLAINED

LIBERALISATION OF IMPORT CONTROL

appears

the Empire Dollar Pool and the Reserve

EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL

view for a large number of countries (generally referred to as the Empire Dollar Pool) in which almost all their foreign exchange balances or holdings were then freely convertible into other currencies. In such circumstances, the balance of payments could have been converted into other currencies.

land and the British Treasury. As the United States dollar was the most important foreign currency in this Pool this whole arrangement came to be known as the Empire Dollar Pool instead of the Sterling Area Pool of Foreign Exchange which more correctly describes it.

In the working of the Empire Dollar Pool of the individual countries of the common area were given no specific allotments of the various foreign currencies which they were entitled to spend. The method by which expenditure was restricted was that the countries

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The Government of India have kept in account of India's earnings and expenditure of hard currencies some figures about which were published in the Finance Member's Budget speech last February. Since the beginning of the War up to the 31st March 1946 India earned Rs. 495 crores worth of U. S. A. dollars and spent Rs. 240 crores having a net surplus of Rs. 165 crores. Against this has to be set off the fact that India spent more than Rs. 41 crores on the export of other hard currencies, namely those of Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal. India's net contribution to the Pool has therefore been about Rs. 114 crores till the close of the year 1945-46. During the quarter ending June 1946 for which preliminary figures are available, India's net contribution to the Pool, namely Rs. 114 crores, has been maintained.

the Pool, namely

the Pool, namely Rs. 114 crores, has been maintained.

is a fund known as the Post war Dollar Fund to which \$ 100 million was contributed by the United States for the year 1944. In the year 1943-44 His Majesty's Government in view of our large dollar contributions to the Empire Dollar Pool and our willingness to agree to give reciprocal aid to the United States to place at our disposal a sum of \$20 million in a separate fund to be utilised after the conclusion of hostilities with Japan for restocking and capital expenditure in the U. S. A. All expenditure for these

purposes was to be met from the Fund and not till this Fund was exhausted were we to ask for dollars from the Pool for the financing of such expenditure. This figure of \$20 million was a percentage of our dollar earnings on trade account in the year 1944 and H. M. G. agreed that they would credit the fund with a similar sum, upto a maximum of \$20 million, for the year 1945 at our dollar earnings on the same basis for that year were of the same order as for the year 1944. In respect of 1945, H. M. G. have just intimated an allocation of \$20 million. It is generally believed that this fund represents the total resources in U. S. dollars which India possesses for the purchase of capital goods. Such a belief is however, erroneous. The limit of our purchases is not necessarily the amount in the fund for we have the right to draw on the Pool for all capital goods the import of which we regard as legitimate. As against the \$20 million allotted to the Fund for 1944 or in anticipation of further allotment the Government of India have issued sanctions for the import of capital goods, the purchase of ships and for other industrial purposes upto \$28 million.

IMPORT POLICY

Recent criticisms about the import control policy of Government have been based on two grounds: firstly, that the administrative machinery for the grant of import licences was slow and inefficient and secondly that the strictness with which exchange control was enforced made it very difficult for importers both of capital and of other goods to import them from outside the sterling area. With the altered conditions brought about by the termination of War the Government of India have recently made a number of changes in the administration of import control with the result they hope, that the procedure for obtaining import licences has been very considerably simplified and shortened. They have also adopted the policy of removing, as many items as possible from the list of controlled items and of placing them on the Open General Licence for the sterling area. Other items have been placed on the Universal Open General Licence which means that these items may be imported both from any source whether within or outside the sterling area. Items which are thus decontrolled are continually under review and the list is gradually being expanded.

The Government of India have also reinforced substantially the rigidity of exchange control and the two tests of essentiality and non-availability are now applied with more flexibility. Requirements are now held to be essential if they are necessary for the maintenance and development of the national economy or the maintenance and development of the standard of living and non-availability is determined with due reference to the quality, price and period of delivery of comparable articles from the sterling area. Control in respect of proving non-availability has been shifted to Government from the importer so that it is now for Government to satisfy itself by its own enquiries whether goods required to be imported from outside the sterling area are available within it or not instead of as heretofore, for the importer to prove that they were not so available. Another modification that has been introduced is that the various currencies of the world have been graded in order of their difficulty and the tests of essentiality and non-availability are applied to imports with a decreasing degree of strictness in accordance with the comparative easiness of the currency concerned. With these modifications of policy and procedure it is expected that currency considerations will no longer hinder the rapid development of industry in India.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

NEW DELHI

October 7, 1946

Mr. Manu Subedar (Are Government negotiating with the Government of the United States for a treaty of commerce and communication?) Will they resume those negotiations because I understand that the United States Government was anxious to make such a treaty but the then Government of India refused to entertain such a treaty in 1939?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question of a treaty was considered in 1940 and the question was reopened by the United States in 1945. But it was then considered that the time was inopportune for the negotiations of such a treaty. However, there is no discrimination either by America or India against goods of either country, and the question will be taken up as soon as it is found to be opportune to do so.

SELECTION OF PERSONNEL OF INDIAN DELEGATION TO U. N. O.

290 *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the principle that has been adopted by Government in the composition and selection of the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations Organisation,

(b) how many of the delegates selected by Government are Muslims?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) The selection of the persons best fitted to represent India and able to attend the Conference in question

(b) Of the five delegates to the General Assembly now in Session two are Muslims

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that so far such delegations have been only party delegations may I ask the Honourable Member whether in future while selecting non-officials to such delegations, he will consider the desirability of associating all parties of this House?

Mr. President: Has the Honourable Member any answer to this?

Mr. H. Weightman: I do not think that that is really in issue. There is no question of 'one party' in connection with delegations at all.

- **Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** May I ask the Honourable Member whether in selecting a Muslim High Court Judge as a member of this delegation he is not preventing him from expressing his opinion on the internal Indian situation in virtue of his office?

Mr. President: Order order. That is not relevant.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Isn't it a fact that one of the Members of the Muslim League was invited and he refused to join the delegation?

Mr. H. Weightman: That is a fact.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqui: May I enquire whether in the Technical Staff attached to this delegation there are any Muslims?

Mr. H. Weightman: Not among the technical staff, but there are two in the secretarial staff.

PROTESTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOMBING OF TRIBAL AREAS IN N-W.F.P.

291. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state if they have received strong protests from responsible bodies in the North-West Frontier Province in connection with the recent bombing of certain tribes on the North-West Frontier Province?

(b) Is it a fact that the recent bombing of tribesmen includes also the civil population of Waziristan including many hundreds of men, children and the aged?

(c) Is there any truth in the Resolution passed by Frontier Muslim League in which it is alleged that the "barbarous practice of bombing of the civil population outside the 'Frontier' was resorted to by the Congress Government"?

(d) Will Government state if this practice of bombing has been permanently discontinued?

(e) Do Government propose to pay compensation to the victims of recent bombing?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) The Government of India are aware that the recent bombing on the North-West Frontier has evoked strong criticism in many quarters.

(b) No, Sir. Attention is drawn to the facts stated in the Government Communique, dated the 18th September 1946, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government of India hope that the occasion will not again occur.

(e) Immediate compensation was paid to the victims of accidental bombing outside the Proscribed Area referred to in the Communique.

Seth Govind Das: Was any compensation paid to these victims before the Interim Government came into being? There has been bombing several times of this area before and on the previous occasions was any compensation paid to the victims?

Mr. H. Weightman: To these particular persons or to other persons on earlier occasions? Whenever there has been accidental death or injury caused—Yes, Sir

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: May I know whether this practice of bombing of people who are not at war or who are not fighting is allowed by international law? Should not the people who have done it be treated like the Germans at the Nuremberg Trial?

Mr. H. Weightman: It is always necessary for a Government to maintain a certain standard of peaceful control and hitherto Government have thought that this particular method was the cheapest and the most humane that was available to them. It must be recalled that we invariably gave notice of the intention to bomb any particular area and that the notice instructed people to remove themselves from that area.

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: Is it allowed by international law to bomb people who are not your nationals? These people of the tribal areas, I understand are not British subjects and the area where the bombs were thrown is not British territory. Is it allowed by international law to bomb another person's territory. Has been done?

Mr. H. Weightman: I know of nothing in international law which would stand in the way of the practice that we have put into force hitherto.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: With reference to the reply to part (c) of the question and in view of the fact that the Congress Government had nothing to do with the bombing may I know what steps Government have taken to counteract the false propaganda that has been done and is still being done by the Muslim League?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am not quite sure what propaganda the Honourable Member is referring to.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: A resolution was passed by the Frontier Muslim League that the Congress Government was responsible for the bombing whereas it had not taken up office at that time.

Mr. H. Weightman: I think the press communique is itself a sufficient refutation of that charge.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether any action taken in the Frontier is done after consultation with the Provincial Government?

Mr. H. Weightman: Not after consultation. No.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: With reference to part (d) of the question is the Honourable Member in a position to inform the House the amount of compensation paid to people who are outside the tribal area?

Mr. H. Weightman: They were not outside the tribal area. They were within the tribal area but outside the 'proscribed' area.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: My question is with reference to the people outside the proscribed area.

Mr. H. Weightman: Yes, I have got the figures. Rs. 1,000 to the families of each of those killed (and they were five in number) and Rs. 360 for the person wounded. These payments are in accordance with customary rates.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: With reference to the communique which the Honourable Member has referred is there on record any protest by the Frontier Ministry against those bombings?

Mr. H. Weightman: In the form of a protest? No, I do not think so.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Does it mean that the Frontier Government approved of your bombing?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir.

REMARKS BY HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN DELHI re TRIBAL POLICY

292 *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to explain categorically to this Assembly what precisely did he mean to convey to his fellow countrymen at his latest Press Conference in Delhi on September 26, when he said that the Interim Government are seriously considering the whole Frontier problem "in the light of new circumstances" ?

(b) What did the Honourable Member precisely mean that "peace and tranquillity on the Frontier is considered vital to the security of Hindustan" ?

(c) Do Government apprehend an invasion of India through the Khyber Pass at an early date ?

Mr. H. Weightman : (a) The Honourable Member seems to have been somewhat misquoting of the remarks of the Honourable Member in charge of External Affairs. That new circumstances exist in India however is no doubt fully appreciated by the Honourable Member and the Frontier problem is only one of many hundreds of problems that require fresh consideration.

(b) Again the Honourable Member appears to have been misquoted, that is, the Honourable Member in charge of External Affairs is misquoted. What he actually said was that the security and well-being of the Tribal Areas is a definite factor in the defence of this country, a remark which does not appear to require further elucidation.

(c) No, Sir.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Security by whom and against whom.

Mr. H. Weightman : I do not understand what the Honourable Member means.

Mr. President : Next question.

REMARKS BY HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN DELHI re TRIBAL POLICY

293. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state what exactly is meant by "Policy of Firmness" advocated by him during a recent Press Conference on Foreign policy held in Delhi in connection with the Tribes on the Frontier ?

Mr. H. Weightman : The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the comment of the Honourable Member in charge of External Affairs that the approach to the problem of the Tribal Areas should be as friendly as possible but as firm as possible. The implication is obvious. There must be no impression that the Government is incapable of exerting its authority in the protection of its subjects.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. V. K. KRISHNA MENON AS AMBASSADOR FOR WESTERN COUNTRIES

294. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state if it is a fact that he has appointed Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon as his accredited roving Ambassador for the Western Countries ?

(b) Are Government prepared to state the terms of this appointment of Mr. Menon as representative of the Government of India ? Is Mr. Menon on fixed salary ?

(c) Do Government propose to place on the table of the House a copy of the report which it has been stated by Mr. Menon that he has posted to the Honourable Member for External Affairs on his recent discussions with the Soviet Foreign Commissar M. Molotov ?

Mr. H. Weightman : It would be appropriate that this question should be answered by the Honourable Member in charge of External Affairs himself. I have no doubt that he would be willing to accept short notice if the Honourable Member would put down a short notice question on this issue after his return to Delhi.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: On a point of order, Sir, is it open to any Honourable Member to use a word like "loving"? Is it parliamentary to use such a word?

Mr. President: What question is the Honourable Member referring to?

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Question 294, part (a)

Mr. President: There is nothing unparliamentary in that

NATIONALIZATION OF INSURANCE BUSINESS IN INDIA

295. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if they have considered the question of Nationalisation of all Insurance business in India?

(b) Has the Honourable Member received representations in this connection from the most important Insurance Companies in India?

(c) Have Government under contemplation the question of appointment of a Committee to consider the question of nationalisation of Insurance business in India?

(d) Are Government aware of the great alarm caused by reports that they propose to nationalise all Insurance Business in India?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The question has not so far been considered by Government

(b) (c) and (d) The answer is in the negative

LOSS TO INDIANS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA BY THE REFUSAL OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO SUBSTITUTE JAPANESE CURRENCY BY BRITISH NOTES

296. ***Mr. P. B. Gole:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the Japanese Government gave Japanese currency notes in lieu of Burmese and Indian Currency notes during the period of the occupation to Indians in South East Asia and Burma, and

(b) whether Government are aware that the British Government refused to substitute the Japanese currency notes by British Notes after the conquest of the Japanese occupied territories and thus put Indian in South East Asia to considerable loss?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) The Japanese introduced their own currency in Burma and other countries in South East Asia. We have heard from Indians who have returned from those countries after their reoccupation that to some extent Indian and Burmese currency notes were exchanged for Japanese notes.

(b) Yes. Reports have been received that owing to invalidation of Japanese currency many Indians in Burma and other countries have in common with members of other races, been put to loss.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Do the Government of India propose to make up this loss after the reoccupation by the British?

Mr. H. Weightman: I think not Sir. The question whether the losses suffered by Indians on account of the redemption of Japanese currency should be included in the reparations claims against Japan is under consideration at the present moment

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF BRITISH RESIDENTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA IN THE MATTER OF RETURN OF PROPERTY BY THE CUSTODIAN OF ENEMY PROPERTY AFTER RECONQUEST

297. ***Mr. P. B. Gole:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state, whether Government are aware that Indians in South East Asia did not get back their property including gold from the custodian of the enemy property, after the reconquest, whereas the British residents received preferential treatment and all their property was returned?

* Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner having exhausted his quota

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The Honourable Mr I I. Chundrigar If the Honourable Member is referring to the property situated in India belonging to British and Indian nationals resident in South East Asia and vested in the British Indian Custodian of Enemy Property, the answer is that no preferential treatment has been accorded to British nationals.

If, however, the Honourable Member is referring to the property of Indians situated in South East Asia, the question should be addressed to the Honourable Member in charge of External Affairs.

RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY OF INDIANS IN NEPAL

298 *Shri. Mohan Lal Saksena Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians are not allowed to enter into Nepal without Passport while the Nepalese have no such restriction when coming to India, and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take necessary steps to see that there is no disparity of treatment in the matter of Indians going to Nepal?

Mr H Weightman (a) So far as the Government of India are aware, Indians may cross the frontier into Nepal without restriction to enter the Kathmandu Valley, however permits are required by travellers of all nationalities including Nepalese. It is a fact that Nepalese may enter India without restriction.

(b) Does not arise since there is no restriction on either side on crossing the frontier itself and since the Nepalese restriction to which reference has been made applies equally to Nepalese subjects.

GOODWILL DELEGATION TO NEPAL

299 *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether the Interim Government propose to send any Goodwill Delegation to Nepal, and

(b) whether they propose to appoint an Indian Ambassador in Nepal?

Mr H Weightman The Government of India have not yet been able to give thought to either possibility.

INDIAN AMBASSADORS IN U. S. A., SOVIET RUSSIA AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

300 *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please make a statement regarding the appointment of Indian ambassadors in the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Russia, and other European countries?

Mr H Weightman As the Honourable Member is doubtless aware it has recently been decided in consultation with the Governments concerned to raise the Indian Diplomatic Missions in the United States of America and China to the status of Embassies. America and China will consequently be represented in India in future also by Embassies. The question of exchanging Diplomatic Missions with the U. S. S. R. and other countries in the near future is under consideration.

SUPPLY OF FOOD BY RUSSIA TO INDIA

301 *Mr. Manu Subedar : (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the efforts that Government have made for creating economic relationship with Russia generally and more specifically to find out whether Russia could supply food to India?

(b) Has any mission gone from India to Russia?

(c) Has any mission been invited from Russia to India for discussing common economic matters?

(d) Have Government attempted to negotiate barter agreements with other Governments, such as the Government of China, the Administration of Japan, Siam, Viet Nam, Indonesian Republic, Argentine, Persia and Afghanistan?

(e) If the reply to (d) above is in the negative will Government consider the advisability of reciprocal barterising in this manner, instead of waiting for normal trade channels to come on the scene?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The nature of our economic relations with the U.S.S.R. is under the consideration of Government. The fullest assistance and facilities have, however, been given to the Soviet Trade Agency in India for the procurement of U.S.S.R. requirements from this country, e.g., raw jute, jute goods and tobacco. As regards the import of food from Russia a direct appeal was made at the United Nations Organisation conference earlier this year. Approaches have also been made to the U.S.S.R. through the Soviet Trade Agency in India as also through diplomatic and other channels with a view to exploring the possibility of foodgrains being made available from this source.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) While no specific barter agreements have been entered into with the countries mentioned by the Honorable Member, arrangements have been negotiated with Indonesia, Siam and the Argentine Governments for the release of certain specific commodities required by them with a view to securing for India release of foodgrains wherever possible from these sources.

(e) I may assure the Honorable Member that Government will take such action as may be considered necessary, whether by barter agreement or otherwise, for ensuring that adequate supplies of such commodities as are required for the satisfaction of our needs be made available.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (b), may I know whether Government will not send either a goodwill mission or an economic mission or a trade mission to Russia in order to study the proposition as to whether there are any commodities produced there and whether there are any surplus which could be brought to this country with advantage?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Unless there is some preliminary inquiry which discloses that there are some commodities or articles which could be imported from Russia it would not be worth while to send a mission. The question will first be investigated here.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Petrol used to come from Russia before the war, and we are short of petrol. Salt used to come from Rumania and we are short of salt in Bengal also. I could mention many other instances but I do not want to take up the time of the House. Just as the Russians have thought it wise to send a trade mission to India to purchase and to investigate the possibilities of trade in certain commodities, is it not right and is it not high time that our Government send a mission to that country in order to have at least a preliminary survey?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by sending a mission at this stage unless we know beforehand that any articles would be available. Inquiries are being made to find out whether it will be possible to have any imports from that country.

Brijut Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: In view of the reply just given by the Honourable Member is it or is it not worth while or necessary to send a commission to Russia to investigate into the matter and see which commodities or articles can be imported into India?

Mr. President: That is a matter of opinion.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I ask whether a year ago a representation was made by some members of the mercantile community requesting Government to give them travelling facilities to proceed to Russia?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I am not aware of that. I shall make inquiries.

PROFITS TO GOVERNMENT BY EXPORT TRADE

302 *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the arrangements that Government are making in order to see that the bulk value of the export from India is realised by Government instead of by the trader who is lucky enough to get the export licence?

(b) Have Government got under consideration any scheme, by which some of these benefits could accrue to Government to enable them to build an exchange fund, which would help them to deal with the situation which may arise hereafter when the tide of inflation turns back?

(c) Is it a fact that Indian export articles are still leaving this country at controlled prices, whereas India is importing most of the articles at inflated prices?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b) The Honourable Member's question is not clear, but if the suggestion is that Government should retain for themselves such portion of the profits as are considered unduly high in a particular trade, the answer is that Government are endeavouring to secure a reasonable share of these profits by the levy or the enhancement of export duties on such commodities. As the Honourable Member is aware, an export duty of Rs. 20 a bale has recently been levied on cotton and the export duty on raw jute and jute goods has been raised substantially.

(c) Of the commodities exported from India the prices of cotton piecegoods and yarn and tea which is being purchased by the Ministry of Food and a block purchase scheme only are now controlled. As far as cotton piecegoods and yarn are concerned this control operates also in the interests of the domestic market. Control over export prices of cotton piecegoods is now enforced only in respect of exports to such countries as are able to exercise effective control over internal prices in respect of such goods. It is understood that there is no control in exporting countries over the prices of the principal commodities imported into India though there is no evidence to suggest that specially inflated prices are being charged for goods so exported.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In addition to the export duty, which expedient Government are already using, may I know whether Government would not also consider such a thing as charging a license fee to exporters and also whether they will not consider sending goods on consignment to those countries on Government account and using the trade channel only as commission agents for the sale of these goods and get the fullest price in the Government pockets?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Government will examine the suggestion, though the persons who are now handling this trade will probably make a complaint about it.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it not a fact that in many foreign countries Indian goods are sold at 250 per cent. of the prices here?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I am not sure about the percentage but Government are aware that prices in some countries are much higher than those prevailing here.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Does not this raising of export duties interfere with the international concept of the removal of barriers in international trade?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I do not think so.

MONOPOLY AND PRICE POOLING ARRANGEMENTS IN LK, D'WEELE AND PRINTING MACHINERY

303 *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether it is a fact that there is a monopoly and price pooling arrangement in the United Kingdom in regard to machinery for textiles and printing trade, which gives heavy quotations to Indian enquirers?

(b) Is it a fact that many classes of imports are cheaper from U. S. A. and hard currency countries than from the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) As no single factory in U. K. makes complete textile spinning plant, the output of almost all such factories is pooled and handled by Textile Machinery Makers Limited. There is thus monopoly as well as price pooling arrangement in this line. Evershed Commission in the United Kingdom is however investigating the cost of production of spinning machinery where the question of monopoly price being exorbitant will be examined. In the cases of Textile Winding and Beaming machinery, Lancashire Looming and Finishing Machinery, which are made by groups of independent firms, there is neither monopoly nor price pool. In none of these cases there is any evidence that Indian orders are highly priced. The Board of Trade is, however, prepared to investigate fully any specific cases of heavy quotations put forward.

As regards printing trade, there is no evidence of monopoly or price pool arrangement.

(b) It is difficult to get exhaustive information immediately but in several instances supplies from U. S. A. and hard currency countries have come to us cheaper than from the United Kingdom while in some other cases, supplies from U. K. are cheaper than from U. S. A. and hard currency countries.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is it not a fact that there are two big combines in the U. K. manufacturing spinning machinery and now they have combines and are charging 250 per cent. more than the pre-war price while the rise in the cost of production is only 50 per cent. in England?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: As I said, all the firms which are manufacturing textile spinning plant have pooled together and then manufactures are handled by the Textile Machinery Makers Limited. If there are any complaints about their charging excessive prices to Indians, we shall take up the question and the Board of Trade are prepared to examine any complaints which we may make and take action in the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that there is a wide-spread impression amongst business circles will the Honourable Member for Commerce ascertain this position and take steps—that private and unregulated import it the hands of private parties are involving the payment of too much price? Will not the Government interfere in the bargaining between the Indian nationals and those who supply?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Is the Honourable Member suggesting that Government should make the purchases of the spinning machinery and then sell it to the persons desirous of establishing the mills here?

Mr. Manu Subedar: The suggestion is for ascertaining the demands in this country pooling all this demand and making the best bargain on behalf of India, either in the United Kingdom, U. S. A. or Belgium or Czechoslovakia or whichever country in which these goods can be secured at the best price?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There will be considerable difficulties in the way because those who are desirous of setting up the mills are now making attempts in the United Kingdom and other countries of the world to secure the machinery as soon as possible and as there is competition among people desirous of setting up new mills, there will be considerable difficulties in the way. If Government find that an arrangement of the nature suggested by the Honourable Member will be welcomed by the people who desire to set up new mills, Government will certainly take up the question.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is it not a fact that the Textile Control Board has already made such a complaint to the Government that the U. K. is charging unduly high prices?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The suggestion in the original question was that India is being charged higher prices compared to other countries. On that point no specific complaint has been received. If the allegation is merely that India is charged 250 per cent. more than the pre-war price, it is possible for the manufacturers to say that the cost of production has gone up and Government will certainly examine whether the increase in price quoted by the

manufacturers is justified looking to the increase in the cost of production. If the increase is not justified, Government will certainly take up the question for decreasing the price.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Have the Government taken any action on so many complaints that have been made about the high price charged by the manufacturers?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No specific complaints have been received except the general allegation. The matter has been taken with the Board of Trade and as I have stated in reply to the question that the Board of Trade are prepared to investigate fully into specific cases of heavy quotations put forward.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that there is extensive competition between Indians who are anxious to buy the equipment quickly at this end and there is a price pooling arrangement at the other end, would not Government assure this House that they will go thoroughly into this question and get detailed information from the textile associations and chambers of commerce?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Government will go thoroughly into the question.

PRICES OF ARTICLES RECEIVED FROM AND DESPATCHED TO BURMA

304 *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the articles that have been received from Burma and the articles that are to be despatched to Burma?

(b) How do the prices of these articles compare?

(c) What is the position of prices paid for these articles with prices received by India?

(d) Is it a fact that Burma rice has been charged at a very high rate to India?

(e) Is it a fact that cloth and other articles supplied to Burma have gone at controlled prices?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Trade with Burma has only recently been resumed through Commercial channels. It is not therefore possible to give a comprehensive list of the articles received from or supplied to that country. Cotton textiles, jute manufactures, groundnut oil and tea, however, form the major portion of our exports while rice and maize constitute the principal items of imports.

(b) and (c). As exports and imports are now made very largely through trade channels, it will not be possible without an elaborate investigation to give a comparative view of the prices paid for imports and those received for our exports.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Cloth and till recently jute manufactures have been exported to Burma at controlled rates, and tea at rates fixed by the Ministry of Food. There is no price control with regard to other items of export.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that the Burma Government charged this Government Rs. 16 a maund for rice?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is so.

Mr. Vadialal Lalubhai: Is Government aware that the price of piecegoods in Burma is more than double what India charges them?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Government do not know the exact percentage but certainly they are higher because of the shortage.

Mr. Vadialal Lalubhai: Will Government inquire?

Mr. Leslie Gwill: In regard to part (c) of the question, is it to be inferred from the Honourable Member's reply that the Burma Government are charging an export duty on rice that is sent to India?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The price includes export duty, rehabilitation charges and several other items. I do not think they are charging us a higher rate compared to the rate charged to other countries.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In future in interchange of commodities between other countries generally and more particularly with Burma, if the prices at which India supplies are at controlled prices and therefore presumably at a much lower price than that coming in from the Government of India, will the Government also supply India which is one of her oldest customers in rice at a fair price and not attempt to profiteer?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The suggestion is a very nice one but we were so short of rice that it was not possible for us to refuse rice even at an exorbitantly high price.

PURCHASE OF COTTON BY THE U. K. GOVERNMENT

305 *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state how much cotton has the Government of the United Kingdom purchased from India?

(b) Have Government any information as to the price at which such cotton has been purchased?

(c) Has permission been given for the export of such cotton to the United Kingdom?

(d) For what quantity has permission been given for the export of cotton to (i) China, (ii) Japan, and (iii) other countries?

(e) Have Government helped U. K. Government with finance in rupees for this purpose?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 11th November 1946, when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

APPLICATIONS TO TARIFF BOARD FOR PROTECTION BY INDUSTRIES

†306 *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state how many industries have made application to the Tariff Board for protection?

(b) How many applications have been disposed of and how many are still pending?

(c) In the case of which major industries is the period of protection expiring and the need for a fresh enquiry will arise?

(d) What measures do Government contemplate to meet the situation?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b) Applications for protection are made to Government and not to the Tariff Board. Such applications are scrutinized by an Inter-Departmental Committee consisting of representatives of Commerce, Industries and Supply, Finance and other interested Departments and those that are found to have established a *prima facie* case for tariff assistance or protection are referred to the Tariff Board for investigation. Other applications are examined departmentally according to the decisions of the Inter-Departmental Committee. So far 10 applications have been remitted to the Tariff Board out of which the Board has submitted reports on 15 industries which are under consideration. Decisions on 8 reports will be announced very shortly.

(c) (1) Sugar, (2) Cotton Textile, (3) Sericulture, (4) Iron and Steel manufactures, (5) Wood pulp and paper.

(d) Government are actively considering the matter.

† Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner having exhausted his quota.

EXPANSION OF TARIFF BOARD AND EXISTING TARIFF INEQUALITIES

†307 ***Mr. Manu Subedar** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether the personnel of the Tariff Board is being expanded?

(b) Is a new and permanent Tariff Board being established?

(c) What steps are Government taking to correct the inequalities of tariffs existing at present, apart from the issue of protection, such as the same duty on raw materials as well as on finished goods?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (a) and (b) Both these questions are under consideration

(c) Where the duty on finished goods is the same as that on raw materials there is hardly any tariff inequality. I may, however, add for the information of the Honourable Member that in respect of industries referred to the Tariff Board, any tariff inequality existing between finished goods and raw materials will be taken into consideration by the Board in framing their recommendations. As regards other industries, Government will consider sympathetically any applications that may be made to them for removal of tariff inequalities. I may further add that as a measure of assistance to certain industries Government have already removed duties on the principal raw materials required for certain industries.

TREATMENT OF INDIAN LABOUR IN CEYLON

†308. ***Mr Ahmed E H Jaffer** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the state of affairs in Ceylon in regard to the treatment of Indian labour?

(b) Do Government propose to place on the table of the House all correspondence that has passed recently between the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon in this matter of treatment of Indian labour in Ceylon?

(c) Has the Government of India's Agent in Ceylon submitted a report on this matter in recent months?

(d) Are Government aware that all reports from the Indian Congress in Ceylon go to show that Indian labourers are shut up in camps in barbed wire fences where they live a life as horrible as in German Concentration Camps such as Buchen and Bergen?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Yes. The Honourable Member is apparently referring to the treatment of Indian labourers who were asked to quit the Knivesmure estate after it was acquired by the Ceylon Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes. The Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon has kept the Government of India informed from time to time.

(d) The reports received by the Government of India show the facts to be as follows. The Indian labourers living on the Knivesmure estate refused to vacate the hme rooms in which they were living even after being ordered to do so by the Ceylon Government on their acquiring the estate for other purposes. In the first week of October the Ceylon Government put up barbed wire fencing around the hme rooms and employed watchers to control entry into the enclosures. A few men from each enclosure were allowed outside for short periods daily to procure foodstuffs and the like. Persons who went out without permits or overstayed their permission were refused re-entry. In reply to representations made by our Representative the Ceylon Government stated that the action had been taken in order to protect Government property against trespass and theft. As a result of the discussions the dispute between the labourers and the Ceylon Government was settled by the labourers agreeing to move to other estates on which the Ceylon Government found them employment and arranged for free transport.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota

STATEMENT OF VISIT TO N-W FRONTIER BY THE HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

†309. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please lay on the table of this House a comprehensive statement on his recent visit to the North-West Frontier Province ?

(b) What was the object in paying a visit ?

(c) Has the Honourable Member received a report of the disturbances at Peshawar on the occasion of his arrival at that place ?

(d) Has the Honourable Member seen the report of the speech by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan made by him in connection with these demonstrations ?

(e) Do Government propose to have an enquiry made on Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's allegations against the Political Department of the Government of India wherein he said that these demonstrations were organised and engineered by the Political Department to bring the Interim Government into contempt ?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) and (b) It would be appropriate that the Honourable Member in Charge of External Affairs Department should himself reply to these parts of the question and he would no doubt be ready to do so at short notice if the Honourable Member will put in such a question on his return to Delhi

(c) A full report is expected shortly

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) As has already been indicated in reply to a similar question on an earlier date an enquiry is being made into the allegations made against the officers of the Frontier Administration

SURRENDER OF HONOURS AND TITLES IN 1946

310 *Mr. P. K. Salve (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of persons who have surrendered their honours and titles in 1946 ?

(b) How many Musalmans hold titles and honours in the Central Provinces? How many of them have abandoned the same since July 1946?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) The Government of India have no information. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the newspapers in which the names of such persons have appeared

(b) The Government of India have no information

NUMBER OF INDIANS RESIDING IN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES (e.g., BURMA, MALAYA, AUSTRALIA, ETC.) BEFORE AND AFTER WAR

311. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) the number of Indians residing in the Commonwealth countries particularly Burma, Malaya, Australia, Ceylon, and East Indies before the War and

(b) their numbers now ?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) A statement showing the total Indian population in various parts of the British Empire according to the latest available estimates is laid on the table of the House

(b) No reliable figures are available

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Statement

Serial No.	Name of the Country	Indian populations	Year of estimate
1	2	3	4
DOMINIONS			
1	Australia	4 541	1933
2	Canada	1 500	1941
3	New Zealand	1 200	1942
4	South Africa	266 016	1945
5	Southern Rhodesia	2 547	1941
COLONIES AND PROTECTORATES			
6	Ceylon	800 000	1944
7	British Malaya	748 820	1940
8	Hong Kong	4 745	1931
9	Mauritius	269 516	1938
10	Secheelles	504	1931
11	Gibraltar	80	1931
12	Nigeria	32	1911
13	Kenya	47 000	1942
14	Uganda	26 972	1943
15	Nyasaland	1 851	1940
16	Zanzibar and Pemba	14 000	1931
17	Tanganyika	15 501	1942
18	Jancon	26 507	1943
19	Trinidad	150 396	1942
20	British Guiana	157 185	1942
21	Fiji Islands	105 581	1942
22	Northen Rhodesia	421	1937
23	Maldives	550	1933
24	British N. Borneo	1 298	1931
25	Aden	5 794	1912
26	British Somaliland	520	1937
27	Malta	41	1933
28	Grenada	5 000	1932
29	St. Lucia	2 189	1931
30	British Honduras	497	1931
	Sierra Leone	444	1931

Serial No	Name of the Country	Indian population	Year of estimate
1	2	3	4
	OTHER PARTS		
12	Burma	1 617 825	1931
33	United Kingdom	7 128	1932

DISABILITIES OF INDIANS IN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES (J & CYLON, SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA, CANADA, EAST INDIES, ETC.)

312. *Seth Govind Das Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) the rights of citizenship and of holding of property of Indians in the Commonwealth countries, particularly Malaya, Australia, Burma, South and East Africa, Ceylon, Canada and East Indies,

(b) the disabilities of Indians in this respect before the war,

(c) the disabilities of Indians in this respect in these countries now, and

(d) the steps that Government propose to take to remove these disabilities?

Mr H. Weightman (a) (b) and (c) A statement showing the position is laid on the table of the House.

(d) The Government propose to attempt to remove these disabilities by means of negotiations with the Government of each country concerned.

[7TH NOV 1946]

Statement appended to reply to Question No 312 by Seth Govind Das in the Legislative Assembly

Name of Country	Rights of citizenship		Rights of holding of property	
	(a) Before the War	(b) Now	(a) Before the War	(b) Now
1	2	3	4	5
Burma and Malaya	Indians in Burma and Malaya enjoyed the same rights of citizenship as other residents of these countries.	No change.	Indians in Burma and Malaya enjoyed the same rights of holding of land as other residents of these countries.	No change.
Australia	So far as Commonwealth citizens are concerned, Indians (permanently settled in that country) do not suffer from any disability. There are, however, a few discriminatory provisions in some of the State laws, certain sections of the Federal Statute of New South Wales and certain regulations in British India as well.	Since before the war so far as the Government of India are aware.	Now, as before the war so far as the Government of India are aware.	Same as before the war so far as the Government of India are aware.
Fig:	None so far as the Government of India are aware. There were three elected members in the Legislative Council in 1936.	There are five Indian members in the Legislative Council. Three are elected and two are nominated. Indians vote on communal basis.	Under the Native Land Ordinance No. 1 of 1915 and other rules issued thereunder, Indians and other non-white persons are prohibited from having land outright from natives.	Same as before the war so far as the Government of India are aware.

Note —1 It is understood that Indian residents are not allowed to acquire land in European managed lands, including

2 Although the tendency so far appears to have been to exclude Indians from responsible positions in the public service and to restrict that a Scheme has been proposed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies under which the holders of the Public Services belonging to the different races in the Colony would be entitled to equality in status and pay for similar work.

Union of South Africa

- (a) In the provinces of Natal, Transvaal and Orange Free State and the Union of South Africa, Indians did not enjoy a franchise. In the Cape Colony Province alone, Indians have been given political franchise along with the European students of the Province except that while franchise for European students is based on adult suffrage and is enjoyed by both men and women, it is based on education and property in the case of Indians and is enjoyed only by males possessing a requisite qualification.
- (b) Indians do not enjoy municipal franchise in—

Kenya

Indians had no municipal political and municipal franchise. There are five Indian elected members in the Legislative Council and one was nominated to the Executive Council.

After the war the post on teaching extension lightened at the Cape Province and the Cape Indians moved the same link to the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act 1946. Indians in Natal and the Transvaal Provinces have been given communal franchise based on education and income. In the Transvaal, the right of franchise is being extended to only males and the Indian community in Natal and Transvaal will jointly be represented by members in the House of Assembly and by 2 in the Senate, all being of Indian descent. Indians will also be represented in the Natal Provincial Council by 2 members. Indians in the Transvaal have not been given representation in the Transvaal Provincial Council. The above Act does not confer any municipal franchise on Indians in the following provinces—

Northern

In the Transvaal Province Indians could not hold fixed property except in localities assigned to them for a purpose. Indian land was also prohibited from residing on or occupying proclaimed land in any mining district. Out of the mining areas Indians also could not occupy land or premises and in April 1939 a petition on 30th April 1939 was thought of raising a petition from the Minister in Natal and Cape Provinces, there was no disability in the respect. In Orange Free State ASIATICS were prohibited from owning any fixed property.

In practice Indians are not allowed to own or lease land in the Kenyan Highlands for agricultural purposes. But Asiatic Indians are not permitted to purchase or occupy on or lease in a number of residential sites in Nairobi and Mombasa.

In regards the Cape Province the Transvaal and Orange Free State the post on remained same. In Natal the recent Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act places restriction on the acquisition and occupation of land by Asiatics, except in exempted areas. Exempted areas have been so proclaimed in the Schedule to the Act or are to be proclaimed by the G. G. in Council on the advice of the Land Advisory Board, or after a period of five years, by resolution of Parliament. In non-exempted areas the terms of the restrictions under this Act are that no Asiatic can, except under a permit of a permit entered into any agreement with a non-Asiatic to acquire fixed property, and no Asiatic can possess property and no person can allow any Asiatic to occupy any such land or premises which was not lawfully occupied on the 31st January, 1946, by an Asiatic except under the authority of a permit.

No change

1	2	3	4	5
Janganyika	No discrimination against Indians. There were 3 nominated Indian members of the Legislative Council.	No change, but the 11 is also now one Indian member on the Executive Council.	No restrictions before the war.	According to the Joint (Reserve) Commission on Land (Reserve) Ordinance, which was passed by the Legislative Council in 1943, no disposition of land of any kind was to be made in favour of a non-native without the consent of the Government. The ordinance was due to expire one year after the end of the war. Present position not known.
Uganda	There was no elective system. There were 2 Indian nominated members of the (Legislative) Council.	No change.	No racial discrimination against Indians.	
Zanzibar	There was no elective system. There were two Indians on the Legislative Council.	There is a proposal reported to be one Indian on the Legislative Council.	Under the Administration of Land (Reserve) Ordinance (No. 1 of 1946), the alienation of land by Arabs and Africans to others, including Europeans, was prohibited, except with the sanction of the Government.	As far as the Government is aware, there has been no change.
Mauritius	Indians in Mauritius have exactly the same rights and privileges as any other section of the population. They are faced not so much with a lack of facilities as lack of opportunity to take advantage of facilities and this in turn is due to the fact that the Indians population represents the poor working class.	No change. It is the Government's aim.	As far as Government is aware, Indians had no disabilities in respect of holding property before war.	No change.
Kenya	Indians do not enjoy equal rights of citizenship with the indigenous population. The discrimination is based on the war.	Same as before the war.	In Kenya, Indians have the right to acquire and hold land.	Same as before the war.

<p>mination is introduced in all important legislative and administrative measures by restricting the benefits conferred under them only to "Ceylonese" defined as "persons of either sex domiciled in Ceylon and possessing a domicile of origin." Thus, the right to obtain Crown lands under the Land Development Ordinance, fishing rights under the Fisheries Ordinance, Licenses for plying of omnibuses under the Omnibus Services Licensing Ordinance, etc., are denied to them. Very few Indians can qualify to enter the public service in Ceylon under the present administrative order of that Government. Even in regard to the fundamental right of franchise while the Ceylon se enjoy adult suffrage, Indian franchise is based on the difficult concept of domicile or alternatively on property or literacy qualification or holding of a certificate of permanent settlement</p>	<p>Indians in Canada, except the residents of Br. Columbia, enjoyed the same rights of citizenship as the other residents of that country. The only disability from which Indians suffered in this Dominion, was their exclusion from municipal, provincial and federal franchise in the Province of British Columbia</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>There was no restriction to the holding of property by Indians in Canada</p>
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1	2	3	4	6
British Guiana	Indians in B. G. enjoyed the same rights of citizenship as any other resident of the Colony.	No change	Indians had the same rights to property as the natives of the Colony	No change
Trinidad	Indians in Trinidad enjoyed the same rights of citizenship as any other resident of the Colony	No change	Indians had the same rights to property as the natives of the Colony	No change
Jamaica	Indians who have been born in the Colony or who have completed 10 years residence possessed the same political rights as the native population.	No change	Indians had the same rights to property as the natives of the Colony	No change

Seth Govind Das: Has the Government recently seen that a federal constitution for Malaya is being prepared and has any copy of that constitution come to the Government of India?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am afraid I have no information. I must ask for notice.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether these negotiations are carried on directly by Government or through their agents?

Mr. H. Weightman: They would be carried on, Sir, through the Government of India's own representative if there is one in the country concerned, otherwise, through the good offices of His Majesty's Government.

Seth Govind Das: Are there Government of India's representatives in every country that is mentioned in this question?

Mr. H. Weightman: There is certainly India's representatives in Malaya, Australia, Burma, Ceylon, Canada but not in the West (not East) Indies. In South Africa there was one and there is still a Secretary in charge of the office there of the High Commissioner. In East Africa there is none as there is no specific country named East Africa and so there is no specific representative there.

Mr. President: Order, order. The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

SUPPLY OF HOUSES TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE

313. *Mr. Manu Subedar : (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power please state whether Government are aware that in the United States of America every member of the Legislature is supplied with furnished house, from which he is not dislodged during the period of his membership?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of creating similar conditions in New Delhi so as to permit members of the Legislature to do the important work, which they are being called upon to do?

(c) How many houses intended for members of the Legislature are occupied by servants of Government?

(d) Have Government prepared any plan, by which this uncertainty would disappear and houses intended for members of the Legislature will be reserved for them and also an individual house given to a member will not be taken away from him so long as he is willing to give the rent for it?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Government generally try to provide Honourable Members with furnished accommodation either in bungalows, hotels or hostels. The total number of houses constructed for the residence of Members of both the Houses is 83, to which 12 houses constructed for officers were added making a total of 95. Of these 26 have been allotted to the Council of State and 68 to the Legislative Assembly and one is used as an enquiry office for M.L.A. bungalows. In addition accommodation in Western Court for five double suites and 26 single suites have also been provided for Members of the Legislative Assembly. The present difficulty is due to the fact that demand for bungalow type accommodation exceeds the number of bungalows available for Honourable Members.

(c) All houses intended for Members of the Legislature have been handed over to the Legislative Assembly Department and the Council of State Secretariat for allotment to Members.

(d) Bungalows intended for Honourable Members are always reserved for them during the session of the Legislature. Accommodation is also made available to Honourable Members visiting Delhi in connection with the business of the Legislature when the Legislature is not sitting, but it has not been found possible to ensure that individual houses given to Members are not taken away from them so long as they are willing to give the rent for it.

Government are aware of the inconvenience and discomfort caused to Members by the present arrangements and the position in this respect is now under their active consideration. The position is however rendered more difficult by the uncertainty about impending constitutional changes which may take place in the near future.

NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

314. *Mr. Manu Subedar : (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power please state how many houses were constructed for the use of members of the Legislative Assembly?

(b) Are Government aware of the inconvenience and anxiety of members of the Legislature with regard to the house, which they will receive when they come from their destination to attend the sessions as well as Select Committees and other public work?

(c) Why should members be subjected to the ballot every time and two or three times in the year?

(d) Are Government aware of the inconvenience to members, who have to bring their linen, crockery and other equipment, staff of servants and their books and files?

(e) Are Government aware that members of the Legislature find it difficult to work if there is uncertainty about the facilities for residence every time a session is called?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale : (a) The total number of houses constructed for the residence of members of both the houses was 83. To these, 12 gazetted officers bungalows were added, making a total of 95. Of these 69 bungalows have been allotted for the use of members of the Legislative Assembly by a redistribution made in 1944 by a Joint Committee of both the Houses and representatives of the Labour Department.

(b) Yes

(c) Ballotting unfortunately is inevitable owing to paucity of accommodation.

(d) and (e) Government fully sympathise with the inconvenience and difficulty caused to Honourable Members. As already stated in reply to the previous question, the entire subject is now under active consideration.

REPATRIATION TO INDIA OF INDIAN EXILES AND PRISONERS IN ALLIED HANDS OUTSIDE INDIA

315. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) how many Indians—outside India—are still either prisoners in the Allied hands or are exiles,

(b) the machinery which the Government of India can use for getting whereabouts and other particulars direct in respect of such men,

(c) whether the Government of India have entered into direct diplomatic relations with the Allied powers for the above purpose,

(d) what steps are being taken by this Government for repatriating such persons to India; and

(e) the Government policy in the matter?

Mr. H. Weightman : (a) Forty-one civilian Indians are being prosecuted in Malaya, including Singapore, and seven in Hongkong for crimes alleged to have been committed during the war and to have involved the commission of atrocities. One Indian civilian in British North Borneo has already been tried and sentenced for such an offence. Apart from these persons, there are no Indian prisoners, either civil or military in Allied hands. There are no Indians abroad barred from returning to India, though transport difficulties have prevented the early return to India of some Indians stranded in foreign countries.

(b) and (c). The normal diplomatic channels are used to trace Indians abroad supplemented by Military Searcher Organisations in the Far East and the

Indian Military Mission in Berlin The representatives of the Government of India in Burma and Malaya are also used for this purpose

(d) and (e) Government are taking all possible measures to repatriate, as and when shipping is available, all those who wish to return to India

ARREST OF DR LOHIA BY GOANESE GOVERNMENT

315-A. *Mr. P. K. Salve: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state if it is a fact that Dr Lohia, a Congress Socialist Leader, was arrested by the Goanese Government?

(b) Is it a fact that no news is allowed to come from Goa?

(c) Is it a fact that Dr Lohia was removed to Aguada Fort in Goa?

(d) Is it a fact that he had been detained there in solitary confinement?

(e) Is it a fact that he had refused food since September, until he was released?

(f) Is it a fact that the Goanese Government had forbidden all public agitation for securing his release?

(g) What steps had Government taken to secure release of Dr Lohia?

(h) Are Government aware that Mahatma Gandhi had a personal appeal to the Goanese Government to refrain from persecuting the Indian Goanese subjects? If so, with what result?

(i) What steps have the Government of India taken to remedy the situation in Goa? Do Government propose to make a detailed statement on the political situation in Goa to-day?

(j) Is it a fact that the Goanese Government have prohibited the entry of Dr Lohia into their territory? If so, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Yes

(b) Not as far as the Government of India are aware

(c) Yes

(d) Dr Lohia is reported to have been detained in Aguada Fort and to have been kept in solitary confinement there from 29th September to 2nd October

(e) The Government of India have no information

(f) The Government of India have no information on the point

(g) The Vice-Consul, Goa, was instructed to ascertain the reasons for Dr Lohia's arrest and to demand an interview with him Dr Lohia was however released meantime

(h) The Government of India have seen press reports of an appeal made by Dr Gandhi to the Goanese Government and of the Governor General's reply. Copies of the press reports are placed on the table

(i) The Government of India cannot intervene in the internal administration of Goa. Representations have, however, been made to the Portuguese Government as well as to the Governor General of Goa. The Government of India are not in a position to make a further statement on this matter at present

(j) Yes The matter is under consideration

Copy of Press Report

PANCHGANI, July 24—"If the Goa Satyagraha movement is to succeed it should be conducted by Gomantakas on the clearest possible issue, that is, civil liberty, the larger section of Swaraj should await its attainment by the whole of India unless, of course, the Portuguese Government wisely come to terms with the inhabitants of the Settlement through friendly negotiations," observes Mahatma Gandhi in a statement issued today.

The following is the text of the statement—

"Dr. A. G. Tendulkar, President, Goa Congress Committee, is the last one from Goa who has come to me with the latest news from the place. He tells me that there are several committees there working not necessarily for its inhabitants but for power. Yet at bottom the

fight is good. He has produced voluminous papers in support of the statement that confusion reigns supreme in the minds of Goans, correctly described as Gomantakas. This confusion is bad in that the inhabitants of this Portuguese possession are novices in the art of real politics. Its separate existence, it is clear, can only depend on the goodwill of the mighty British Government and the impotence of its Indian residents.

CLEAR ISSUE

"It is, therefore, most essential for the success of the movement that it should be conducted by Gomantakas on the clearest possible issue, that is, civil liberty. The larger question of Swaraj should await its attainment by the whole of India unless, of course, the Portuguese Government wisely come to terms with the inhabitants of the Settlement through friendly negotiations.

"It cannot be attained by any direct action of the citizens, whether violent or non-violent. In non-violent action success is assured where every inhabitant is a hero ready to lay down his or her life. It is less to be thought of in Goa than in the more numerous and better seasoned and awakened British India. Therefore the clearest possible issue of civil liberty must be kept steadily in view.

NON-VIOLENCE URGED

"The second condition of success is that the fight must be through non-violent and, therefore also entirely by, open means. Thirdly there should be no parties struggling for attaining power and position. Where the goal and the means are common, different parties have no meaning.

"On reading the literature I find two such persons called loyalists who have already made slavish declarations saying that nothing is wrong in Goa and that a false agitation is being carried on by some mischievous persons. Let not the circle of these loyalists grow larger. The best way to avoid this growth is for all parties to become one"—A. P. I.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

ARREST OF DR. LOHIA BY GOANESH GOVERNMENT

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state

(a) if Government are aware that Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia was, on entering Goa, put under arrest by the Portuguese authorities and held *incommunicado* for ten days, for the first three days in a dark and unventilated cell, and was then expelled from Goa for a period of five years and deported to the Province of Bombay,

(b) whether on 4th October, 1946, Dr. Lohia, while still in prison, wrote to the Honourable Member for External Affairs requesting him to take steps to persuade the Portuguese Government to give up applying International Law between Goa and the rest of India or, in the alternative, to secure an apology to Dr. Lohia for his illegal detention,

(c) whether Government agree that the action of the Portuguese authorities in detaining Dr. Lohia for a period of ten days constitutes a breach of International Law and an affront to a national and, therefore, to the Government of this country,

(d) whether Government have taken up the matter with the British Foreign Office with a view to diplomatic representations being made to the Portuguese Government and, if so, what results have been achieved, and

(e) whether Government are contemplating any further action in the matter by way of economic sanctions, appeal to the United Nations, or otherwise?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Government have received a communication from Dr. Lohia giving this information

(b) No letter was received from Dr. Lohia while he was still in prison but a copy of this letter was subsequently sent by him to Government

(c) and (d) Government are considering the legal implications and will take such action as may be considered necessary. They consider events in Goa to be a matter of importance and have already asked His Majesty's Government to have representations made on their behalf to the Portuguese Government through His Majesty's Embassy, Lisbon. The result of these representations is awaited.

(e) Any further action will depend on developments as well as on the legal advice obtained by Government.

Mr. M. E. Masani: I am sure we are all glad to know that diplomatic representations are being made through the British Foreign Office, but, with reference to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Secretary please state if Government have any reason to doubt the veracity of the statement made by Dr Lohia as to the treatment he received while he was in detention in the Portuguese prison?

Mr. H. Weightman: The Government is not really in a position to make any statement on the actual treatment accorded to him and they will certainly not do so on information received from one side only.

Mr. M. E. Masani: Will Government, then, make inquiries through their Consul in Goa?

Mr. H. Weightman: We will consider that matter, if it is useful to make inquiries about a thing which has ceased to exist.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: In the consideration of this problem, will the Government of India also consider the question of Indian nationals not abusing foreign hospitality or right of asylum?

Mr. H. Weightman: That will be borne in mind.

Mr. M. E. Masani: Is the Honourable Secretary not aware that the detention of a national of a foreign country who enters certain territory is contrary to International Law and that the only right the Government of that territory has is of expelling the national who enters without a permit?

Mr. H. Weightman: I think that is rather a sweeping statement to make.

Mr. M. E. Masani: Do not the Government of India consider that the one month that has elapsed is sufficient to obtain the expert legal advice which they are now awaiting?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: May I also request the External Affairs Department kindly to consult International lawyers as to the right of the nationals of one country going and starting agitations and mischief in a foreign country which has given them hospitality?

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 6th November, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the purpose of election of one member to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Industries and Supplies for the unexpired portion of the current financial year, one nomination was received. As there is only one candidate for the vacancy, I declare Mr Muhammad Rahmat-ullah to be duly elected to the Committee.

HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

I do not propose to make a long speech because this question has been before the House for some time and the Select Committee by a large majority—I may say almost unanimously—has accepted not only the principle of the Bill but also the Bill as drafted. I am very happy to say that also the then Law Member, Sir Asoka Roy, not only agreed to the provisions of this Bill but also helped us to a great extent in clearing many of the misunderstandings.

Now, Sir, before I proceed further, let me clear some of the misunderstandings which exist with regard to this Bill both in this House and outside

[Dr G V Deshmukh]

This Bill deals with *gotra* and *pravara*, and it does not deal with the question of *sapindas*. Somehow or other, the impression has gone round that this means a question of endogamy and that marriages under this Bill are going to take place in the same blood, what are called co-sanguineous marriages. This Bill has nothing to do with this. It has nothing to do with co-sanguineous marriages, nor is it a question of endogamy. Indeed, so far as the prohibited degrees are concerned in the Hindu Law, this Bill does not interfere with them. You can still have your seven generations from the father and five generations from the mother so far as those restrictions are concerned. Now, Sir, I hope that with this explanation those who have been led to misunderstand the provisions of this Bill will disillusion their minds with regard to marrying in blood. So far as the question of *gotra* and *pravara* is concerned, as I have expressed myself before, I had taken the trouble of getting the opinions from learned *sastris* and *pandits*, whomsoever I could get at, and nobody understands *gotra* and *pravara* and what they mean today. Some people say *pravara* is more important others say that *gotra* is more important. Some will say there are four *pravaras* and 49 *gotras*, others will say there are only four *gotras* and 49 *pravaras*. In any case even Hindu lawyers of reputation have not been able to find out the exact meaning of *gotra* and what it represents. Some say it means family, others say it means blood, some others say it means grazing ground, while yet others say it means school. Therefore I submit the question is so ambiguous and so intricate that we do not see any light. I do not see why the Hindu society should spend all its energy over this futile and meaningless inhibition. All that this Bill intends to do is this, it does not say you go and marry some other person with the same *gotra*, it does not say that you can marry some other person with the same *pravara*, it does not do any thing of the kind. All that the Bill does is it is an enabling measure. All that it says is that if a marriage has been consummated between parties of the same *gotra* then the law shall not come in and say that this is invalid or that the children born of such marriages are illegitimate. That is all that this Bill intends to do. Sir, society is moving and moving pretty fast and if we, as Hindus are proud of our Hinduism I think every Hindu should be proud of his Hinduism, I think it is the bounden duty of every Hindu to see that unnecessary energy is not wasted in these meaningless and futile inhibitions. Hindu society now puts up with all kinds of indirect ways and means of evasion. I give you a case in point. There are marriages taking place between parties of the same *gotra*. What is the procedure? (Interruption.) I do not know what people in other provinces do? I am sure my Bombay friends will bear it out that Hindu society will put up with many indirect methods. Supposing a girl is of the same *gotra* as a boy. Then what is the procedure? The girl is given in adoption to a member who does not belong to the same *gotra*. When the girl is given in adoption she changes the *gotra* and then the two can be married. This is really fatuous. It is astonishing that Hindu society should put up with it. To begin with in Hindu society so far as I know a girl cannot be given in adoption, yet the Hindu society will put up with it and this is how the *gotra* is changed by the false method of adoption. The Hindu society will tolerate it they will accept that marriage but not a straightforward procedure like this. It is the duty of the Hindu society to put a stop to these indirect ways. Not only that. There is one thing more. Not only the intelligent public is of this opinion, but I find that the Bombay High Court also is of the same opinion that these *gotras* and *pravaras* have no meaning. In a recent decision in the Bombay High Court the case was taken to the High Court on the same plea that marriage was invalid because the parties belonged to the same *gotra*. The High Court decided otherwise. Under the circumstances let me urge upon this House that this is an enabling measure, a permissive measure. We do not know what *gotra* or *pravara* means. Instead of bending our knees and bowing our heads to this something that is absolutely ignorant superstition, let us be straightforward, let us clear some of our inhibitions so that the Hindu society may become more healthy. Sir, I commend my motion for taking the Select Committee report into consideration.

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration"

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar Non-Muhammadian) Sir, I have already given notice of an amendment to this Bill

Mr. President: This is not the stage for moving amendments. The Honourable Member is entitled to speak now, opposing the consideration of this Bill

Mr. P. B. Gole: Sir, so far as the first clause is concerned I oppose the Bill. The reasons are many. I should like to dispose of some of the wordy arguments, plausible arguments advanced by the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill. He says this is a permissive Bill. I do not understand what he means by permissive Bill. Marriage itself is a permissive thing. Everything of course depends upon the volition of the people. Those who do not want marriage need not marry. No law compels anybody to marry. Saying that this is a permissive Bill carries us no further. He says society has advanced. I do not understand what he means by advancement of society. If he means to say that manlatory provisions of law should be done away with and that instead of giving liberty licence should be given so far as marriage is concerned. I certainly am opposed to it. Society is always regulated. There are certain regulations in society which we are bound to obey. If my friend wants licence instead of liberty, I am certainly opposed to it. You will find, Sir, that my friend says that *sapinda* relationship is maintained. When *sagotra* relationship goes there is the clause about *asagotra*. I have not been able to follow him. The wording in the Bill is if it is between Hindus belonging to the same *gotra* or *pravara*. The original text of Manu on this point reads thus

Asapinda cha ya matursagotra cha ya pituh

Sa prashastā dīpā teṇām darkarmanī mathune

So far as the mother's side is concerned, the wording is *asapinda*. So far as the father's side is concerned, it is *asagotra*. If you take away *asagotra*, you allow *sapinda* relationship to remain. I do not know if my Honourable friend has read fully the opinion received on this Bill. Some are in favour of allowing *sagotra* marriages subject to certain conditions. A few people also express doubt that will be created in the minds of the public if you take away the word *asagotra*. If *asagotra* is taken away, then *sapinda* relationship remains and I do not think that will necessarily follow because Manu's text as I read it is *Asagotra cha ya pituh* (on the father's side—*Asagotra*). Marriages are allowed between two persons having no common *gotra*.

Now as soon as you take away *asagotra*, then *sagotra* marriage is allowed, and if *sagotra* is allowed *sapinda* marriage also will be allowed. There is no restriction on *sapinda* relationship at all so far as the father side is concerned. So far as the mother's line is concerned, there is no doubt that this *sapinda* relationship remains. Of course it necessarily follows because *asapinda* is included in *asagotra*. But if you take away *asagotra* and allow *sagotra* marriage it will necessarily be contended that really speaking as soon as you take away *asagotra*, *sapinda* is not in Manu's text, and therefore even in consanguinity marriage will be allowed. In fact even cousins two degrees removed will be allowed to marry according to this Bill. Of course I know Dr. Deshmukh does not intend it, he has himself stated that he does not want *sapinda* relationship.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I said nothing of the kind, so far as this Bill is concerned it does not touch *sapinda* relationship.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Then of course my Honourable friend probably means that even in the *sapinda* relationship marriage should be allowed as soon as you take away *asagotra*.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, will the Honourable Member say what he means and not what I mean? He does not know what I mean

Mr. P. B. Gole: I did not know that Dr Deshmukh speaks in a language which is not understood by us

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: It is quite plain

Mr. P. B. Gole: It is not I only who understood it in this manner but so many learned people who gave their views in favour of removing this bar on *sagotra* have expressed doubts that if the Bill stands as it is and you allow marriage between *sagotras*, then marriage between *sapindas* will be feasible

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, is it not a fact that marriages are not only governed by the rule of the prohibition of marriages in the same *gotra*, but are also further governed by the rule prohibiting marriages within a certain degree of consanguinity

Mr. President. The Honourable Member is putting forward an argument Mr Gole will proceed

Mr. P. B. Gole: I am pointing out that all these texts are derived from the text of Manu which actually governs marriages so far as *sagotra* relationship is concerned There are hundreds of commentaries on this, and even Vigyan eswara who has written the *Mitakshara*, that is, the commentary on Yagnavalka, has clearly stated that *sagotra* marriages are prohibited In fact in matters of jurisprudence we find that when certain orders are given they are sometimes mandatory and sometimes recommendatory But mandatory orders are generally followed by a sanction And if any sanction is given and any *prayaschitta* is prescribed for interdiction of a rule that rule should be considered as a mandatory proposition From this point of view we have got to examine whether if *sagotra* marriage is performed any *prayaschitta* is prescribed for it. I will read certain verses in this connection Baudhyana says

Sagotramched amatya upayachchhet mativat nam vibhriyat

It means that in case of marriage between *sagotras* the girl so married should be treated as mother who should be supported and she should be discarded by the husband

Then there is Vashishtha

Parineeya sagotram tu saman pravaram tatha

Kritva tasya samutsargam divyashchandrayanam charet

This also says that in *sagotra* marriage the bride should be discarded It is really no marriage and the Shastric order is that the girl should be supported

Then Raghunandana has quoted verses from Sumamnd to this effect

So nanarsheyeem vivahya chandrayanam chareta paritrayya chamam vibhriyat

If she is so married she should be discarded, only she should be supported

So the law as it stands is that *sagotra* marriage is prohibited but if the marriage does take place the bride should be discarded and the husband should support her

But there is another difficulty which Dr Deshmukh has not explained although he has consulted so many learned books and pundits There is the verse

Sagotraddhishiyate nari vivahat saptamepade

The law is that on the *saptapadi* being performed the girl loses her *gotra*. Now if marriage is allowed between *sagotras* this verse becomes redundant because she must be deprived of her own *gotra* and she assumes the *gotra* of her husband, because she is supposed to die in the family of her birth and is reborn in the family of her husband So if *sagotra* marriage is allowed this verse as also all Shastric injunctions become redundant My Honourable

friend talked of the necessity of improving Hindu culture and the law of marriage. It should be understood that the Hindu Law of marriage differs materially from the systems of marriage in other religions. Our marriage is not a contract pure and simple but a religious sacrament, when husband and wife are joined the marriage becomes indissoluble and so it should not be trifled with. My Honourable friend's Bill by allowing *sagotra* marriages would offend against religious texts, and so it should not have been introduced at all. My Honourable friend said that in a recent case the Bombay High Court has upheld *sagotra* marriage. But that is not correct. They have only upheld the custom and not *sagotra* marriage. They have stated that among Deccani Brahmans in Maharashtra there is a custom whereby a daughter is given in adoption to another having another *gotra* and if she is then married the marriage is held to be good, although originally in the family of her birth she had a common *gotra* with that of her husband. In a recent decision of the Bombay High Court both the Chief Justice and Justice Gajendragadkar have stated that as the law stands marriage between *sagotras* is not allowed at all. I will read the concluding portion of the judgment of Justice Gajendragadkar.

"However, as I have pointed out, the Privy Council have consistently taken the view that under the Mitakshara school of Hindu law the laws of Vivasvatar must be accepted as authoritative and binding. That being so there is no alternative but to hold that marriage between *sagotra* persons is invalid under Hindu law."

But they have stated that there is a custom and as we say amongst Hindus *Shashtad modhu baleyasce*. That means custom override the law. Similarly a custom has been held to be valid when a girl is given in adoption. As soon as a girl is given in adoption the *gotra* changes, and in order to facilitate that there should be *asagotra* marriage this scheme is resorted to, but they are very much anxious to see to the religious texts because after all marriage under Hindu Law is a sacramental thing and they do not want that this should be interfered with in a light manner as Dr. Deshmukh wants to do.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) He wants to perform an operation.

Mr. P. B. Gole: He is an expert in surgery and he wants to use his sharp knife so far as our religious texts are concerned. I am very much afraid whether by cutting these religious texts he will keep the Hindu religion alive. I do not know.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will make it more healthy.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I must tell you that this is not an overgrowth in Hindu religion. It has been stated by the Honourable Member in his Statement of Objects and Reasons that this is an archaic law. I do not know what he means by that. Hindu religion is archaic and it is the oldest religion. Why is he fighting shy of archaic Hindu Law? If he says that it is archaic then even the sacrificial fire is archaic. Then what is the need of *saptapadi*, that is also archaic. The vow that is taken before the sacrificial fire namely *Dharma charithe cha kame cha naticharami* is also archaic. Therefore I do not think that this is a question which should be trifled with by men like Dr. Deshmukh who are proud of the Hindu religion. I do not understand, really speaking, why he is coming forward with this Bill which is not wanted by anybody. If we were to scrutinize the opinions that have been expressed with regard to this Bill we will find that there are more against it than in its favour. I have tried to count them, and I find that 121 are against this Bill and as many as 91 opinions are in favour. If you scrutinize these, you will find that all those persons, who are in favour of the Bill have not tried to explain the mandatory provisions of law. They have not also tried to go into the question of necessity or otherwise of having *asagotra* marriages. They say that society has advanced and perhaps many of them have come from Europe after having European education, have come to the conclusion that all that happens in the European society is good for our society also. Probably that is the idea underlying these so called reforms, and

[Mr. P. B. Gole] because in the European society marriages are allowed even amongst cousins two degrees or three degrees removed, similarly they want that marriages should be allowed in the Hindu society. I do not understand how the customs that prevail in the European society or amongst the Westerners can fit in in our society.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province General): It is also allowed in the Asiatic society, except amongst the Hindus. A muslim can marry his first cousin.

Mr. P. B. Gole: But there is absolutely no reason why we should take up the same custom. We have got our own culture and a very old culture too, and we do not understand why, in the absence of any real necessity, and just because men like Dr. Deshmukh are of advanced views and they want that the society should be moulded in this fashion, that we should depart from our religion. If they do not want to follow customs of the Hindus, nobody objects, they may marry in any form they like.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: They may do without it.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Yes. Hindu law does not come against them, but if you want that those persons who want to abide by their scriptures and who want to preserve their *brahma* form of marriage should also adopt this, it would be very unfair. I do not see any reason why you should enforce this on them. Many of the opinions that have been expressed against this Bill have given very cogent reasons as to why *sagotra* marriages should not be allowed. I have already explained to you about the difficulties in the Bill as it stands, but there are other very cogent reasons as to why this *sagotra* marriage Bill is obnoxious to the religious sentiments of the people and will, really speaking, take away the religious aspects of marriage. I do not know whether Dr. Deshmukh likes the religious aspect of the matter. Of course he is here with another Bill by which he wants to nullify the sacramental form of marriage because he wants that marriage should be registered. He wants marriage to be a contractual relation between husband and wife. If that is the idea, I do not understand why he has come up with this Bill. But so far as this Bill is concerned, which attacks the very fundamentals of the institution of marriage, namely, the rules as laid down by Manu and other commentators—I have very strong objection. Those who want to perform *brahma* form of marriage may do so, but if they do not want to have *brahma* form of marriage, they can very well go to a registrar and have their marriage registered under the Civil Marriage Act. My Honourable friend stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that they have got conscientious objection to get their marriages registered. What is the conscientious objection? Their conscience is not stirred when they violate the principle of *sagotra*. They want *sagotra* marriage and their conscience does not bite them there. They say *sagotra* marriage should be allowed, but when the question comes of having civil marriage, apart from the *brahma* form of marriage, their conscience is stirred. I want to say that this is really a convenient conscience. It has no basis and it is only a reason advanced in order to justify such a measure. I may point out in this connection that Mr. Govind Deshmukh, brother of my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh, moved a similar Bill in the last Assembly and when that Bill was being discussed on the floor of the House, Sir Sultan Ahmed, who was the Law Member then,

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Were you present in the House at that time?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I was not.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will address the Chair.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: He is telling stories about which he was not an eye-witness. He is using his arguments on hearsay.

Mr. P. B. Gole: There are printed proceedings of this House in which all this is mentioned. At that time the Law Member had introduced a comprehensive Bill about Marriage. The Bill was styled "A Bill to codify the Hindu

Law relating to Marriage", and in that they had attached at that time—because the Law Committee recommended such a measure—an explanatory note 1 would read to you clause 4 of the Bill. The Law Committee has been sitting. I do not know whether the final report of the Hindu Law Committee has come or not, but I am sure that this was a Bill brought forward by the Government on the recommendations of the Law Committee and in Clause 4 of that Bill it has been clearly stated that a sacramental marriage may be solemnized between any two Hindus upon the following conditions, namely, neither already must have a husband living at the time of marriage both the parties must belong to the same caste if the parties are members of a caste having *gotras* and *pravaras* they must not belong to the same *gotra* or have a common *pravara*.

That is one of the conditions so far as sacramental marriage is concerned, and in this sacramental marriage even the Law Committee, which has been sitting for the improvement of the Hindu Law and they are going to submit a report, we have a comprehensive code and it may be brought before the House. They have maintained that so far as marriage between *sagotras* and *pravaras* is concerned the present interdiction stands. I do not think that after this Hindu society wants such a Bill. The members of the Committee are all Hindus and they are learned in Hindu Law. They have recommended that the interdiction of the *pravaras* and sub-*pravaras* should stand. The majority of them follow the old scriptures and as you probably know at the time when the contract of marriage takes place both on the side of the bride and the bridegroom, their fathers, grandfathers great grandfathers, and great great grandfathers with their *gotras* and *pravara* is pronounced and then only the marriage takes place. Therefore, at that time when the question would arise, at that time when the contract is actually solemnized, if a *sagotra* bride and bridegroom are put forward, it will be very much against all the rules of the *Shastras* which have been prescribed for marriages.

This Bill has been introduced into the House by Government. Probably because of the war it was not proceeded with or perhaps and instead of having piecemeal legislation they want this one code to be put in first. But the Bill stands and it has not been withdrawn. Of course after introduction of the Bill it has not been proceeded with. But once the Government Bill is before the House I do not understand why Dr. Deshmukh has been anxious to put forward again such a Bill, which is not only controversial but creates a number of doubts as to whether after marriage between *sagotras* the question of interrelation or *sapindaship* remains.

I would read to you certain portions from the Bengal Varnashram Swarajya Sangha, because that is a very pertinent thing.

"As to the statement that *sagotra* marriage is current (1) among the *sudras*, and (2) among some classes of Brahmins are answered as follows:

"That there has been some difference in the rules of conduct to be followed by *Dwijas* and *Sudras* is not a new discovery. *Sagotra* marriage is not forbidden for *Sudras* but it must be mentioned that even among higher classes of *Sudras* such marriage is rare.

"If it is a fact that *sagotra* marriage is current among some Brahmins that does not necessitate that the entire class of Brahmins should give up their ancestral *Shastric* conduct and imitate the unshastric conduct of a few others who have fallen from their ancestral conduct for some reason or other.

"Some rare cases of misconduct cannot justify legislative sanction to such misconduct among others. In fact, the special cases of misconduct among special classes of people have been mentioned in the *Shastras* and if all those cases of misconduct are sanctioned by legislation there will be nothing short of chaos in society."

This Varnashram Swarajya Sangha of Bengal further answers the reasonings of the mover of this Bill about eugenics. Of course I am not well versed in eugenics. That is a science which doctors know more than I do. But I know this much that here is an opinion about this eugenics given by eminent doctors from America and that has been quoted by this Varnashram Swarajya Sangha. Eugenics also support the view of our ancient sages. Charaka has:

[Mr P. B. Gole]
 been cited. The well known American author also speaks of different *gotras* of the husband and wife. The quotation from Charaka is

Atulya gotriasya rajah kshayante raho vishushte mithunee kintasya
 of course, Dr Deshmukh will say that this is what Charaka says. That is our native physician. But even doctors from America are of the same opinion. Here is the opinion of Dr Berwis. He says

"My researches give me authority to say that over 10 per cent of the deaf and dumb and over 5 per cent of the idiotics in our State institutions are offsprings of kindred parents, i.e., cousins. The frequency of imperfection of the children of such marriages has been noticed from the time of Moses or earlier and is proved by the fact that all the great moral codes—Hindu, Mosaic and Roman—have forbidden such unions."

Then there is Dr Price. He says

"Consanguinity of parents has been supposed to be the cause of mental defects in children such as idiocy, imbecility, feeble-mindedness, moral imbecility, degeneracy and Oligophrenia, etc."

This is also the view of Dr Fletcher Beach. Here Dr Berwis has referred to Hindu codes and from a moral point of view Hindus do not allow marriages between people of the same *gotra*. I do not understand, as I said, much of eugenics. That is a science by itself. I am quoting here the opinions of eminent doctors from America and England and they pursue these interdictions and prohibitions. One other difficulty would be that in the same family—I am talking of agnates and cognates—if you are able to trace a common ancestor, though because they are several degrees apart we may want to have a marriage, it is repugnant to our sense of propriety and decency. To marry in the same agnate family would be repugnant to our sense of decency. That those upon whom for generations we have looked as our mothers and sisters should be eligible as wives is repugnant to Hindu Law. I do not understand the necessity for such a Bill at all. Who has moved Dr Deshmukh to introduce this Bill in this Assembly? For the lack of such a piece of legislation is there so much hardship in the country as a whole?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I have been paid a lawyer's fees.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I did not know that my Honourable friend is a lawyer too. I know he is only a doctor. He may have got his fees as a lawyer and I do not know about that.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: It is only lawyers who do something when they are paid fees but others do things on their own.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: Some adventure.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Let us confine ourselves to the Bill which we are discussing. All the opinions collected here and circulated all say with one voice that this Bill is not only inexpedient but it offends our religious idea of a marriage and therefore it should not be adopted at all. If Dr Deshmukh thinks that in the Bombay Province there is need for such a legislation, Bombay has got the power under the Act of 1935. The third legislative list gives powers of legislation so far as marriage and divorce are concerned and in that list the Provinces as well as the Central Legislature have concurrent powers. I am not quite sure that there is any necessity for *sagotra* marriage in the Bombay Province but if there is really any need for it, he should move a Bill in the Bombay Provincial Assembly. We are usurping the power of the Provinces.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Do you want me to seek election to the Bombay Legislative Assembly?

Mr. P. B. Gole: If you so desire, you may do it. We are here usurping the rights of the provinces so far as Hindu Law is concerned. Hindu Law is different in different provinces. Even the interpretation of *Mitakshara* is different in different provinces. There is a Bombay School, a Bengal School and a Madras School of Hindu Law, which interpret in different ways the

Yagnavalkya Smṛiti and **Mitākshara** The commentators in the Provinces differ in their interpretation Therefore even so far as *sagotra* marriage is concerned although Manu has laid down *Asagotra cha ya pitauḥ* There may be a different interpretation in Bengal Boudayana has one interpretation and Nilakanta has another It is really the business of the provinces to consider what is proper for them My learned friend wants to force a law upon all the provinces but do they want it?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: It is only permissive

Mr. P. B. Gole: Every thing is permissive Who is forcing you, for that matter, to marry? You are really usurping the right of the provinces to legislate so far as questions of marriage is concerned I go further and say that the right of the provincial legislatures to discuss their needs and to say what law would be suitable for them is being taken away by Dr. Deshmukh What right has he to encroach upon the field of the provincial legislature, although of course, as I said, it is in the Concurrent List Dr. Deshmukh can legislate for the whole of India but thereby he deprives the provincial legislature of their right to discuss a particular piece of legislation which will affect them If the provinces want a legislation in a particular manner they can do it If Dr. Deshmukh's Bill is passed today and the provinces want to amend that, there will have to be another legislation in the province

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) They need not do it

Mr. P. B. Gole: It is true that it is a permissive legislation but at the same time it is an attack against our scriptures and our *śāstras* which should not be allowed

I would draw the attention of the House to the report of the Hindu Law Committee in connection with piecemeal legislation On page 10 para 12, the Report says

"We need not continue any further this distasteful analysis of the technical difficulties of a legislative measure which was inspired by high motives and which in spite of its faults marks an important stage in the evolution of women's rights Difficulties of this kind are inevitable in piecemeal legislation effecting fundamental changes in the Hindu Law The only safe course is not to make any fundamental changes by brief isolated Acts If fundamental changes have to be made it is wisest to survey the whole field and enact a code if not of the whole Hindu Law, at least of those branches of it which are necessarily affected by that contemplated legislation"

You will see there that marriage is a chapter by itself My Honourable friend takes just one sentence of it on *sagotra* marriage and comes forward with a piece of legislation If he took the marriage chapter as a whole and brought a comprehensive Bill I could have understood it

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: What would have happened to your Rishi's injunctions then?

Mr. P. B. Gole: That will be answered when you bring the Bill Perhaps Dr. Deshmukh will be discomfited when he brings any such Bill Today he has come with a Bill for the removal of the *sagotra* interdiction Tomorrow he will say that the vows taken by the bride and bridegroom before the sacred fire should be abolished Perhaps Dr. Deshmukh will then say that this is all permissive and that he is not forcing anybody not to take a vow before the sacred fire

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: That would be codification Will you support it?

Mr. P. B. Gole: Yes, codification will be supported But that is not the point here Marriage under Hindu Law is altogether a separate chapter dealing with all aspects of marriage Dr. Deshmukh brought in last time a Bill for the separate maintenance of married women I objected to that at the time but the Bill was passed in spite of my opposition

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: This is also going to be You have spoken your mind correctly

Mr. P. B. Gole: I will certainly bless you for having destroyed our Hindu Law, because such persons are always wanted. That is not the point The point is this That after this Law was passed many law journals criticised

[Mr. P. B. Gole]

this Law and they said that this is a nasty piece of legislation. In fact here also the Hindu Law Committee have criticised at great length the old Bill of Dr Deshmukh which was passed regarding Hindu Women's Right to Property Act. Here also they gave a suggestion to these enthusiastic reformers

I P. M. not to come forward with such piecemeal legislation. If you want to make any improvement, if you want to codify the law and make it certain, then you should certainly bring in a comprehensive Bill. Of course Dr Deshmukh is not going to be guided by any such advice, but even Dr Deshmukh will admit that he has not even tried to define what is *pravara* and what is a *gotra*. He says that people are at a loss to define it. That is not correct. But you should at least define what you understand by a *gotra*—whether for instance if one family you wish to restrict the *gotra*, whether you wish to restrict the word *gotra* to a family, or whether you want to restrict it to a group of families having the same *gotra*. When you want that marriage between *sagotras* should be allowed, you must define what a *gotra* is. In this Bill *gotra* is not defined at all. On the contrary everybody is left to imagine what a *gotra* will be, everybody is left to define what a *pravara* is. That will be creating chaos. Taking my own family, for instance, I have got a family surname and if I am asked, I can trace my own ancestor up to the *samanodakas*. Does Dr Deshmukh want that in my family also after 7 degrees, marriage between a girl and a boy should take place? Why should it be? What is the reason? As between endogamy and exogamy—my friend admitted in his argument that exogamy is good and endogamy is not good. If that is so, is it not endogamy to marry in one family? How does he define this relationship also? He does not define it, but my main objection to this Bill is that it is so vague that it is likely to create confusion. I would read to you the views of Diwan Bahadur Bashyam Avangar, because he is a very learned judge who comes from Madras. On page 26 of these opinions, in para. 6, he says

"It is a settled principle that legislation ought not to be lightly resorted to. There should be no attempt to change a customary law except in cases of general or crying need or to remove glaring or general hardship. This applies with great force in the present case, as the law, which is sought to be interfered with, has an ancient and religious sanction."

This is a very sound reason that the learned and retired judge has given, that you should not really trifle with our old laws, ancient as they are. Because they are ancient is not a crime, it is not a mistake on the part of our Rishis. But when sound reasons can be given for not resorting to these *sagotra* marriages, I do not understand why Dr Deshmukh should come forward with this Bill. One thing may be noted in this connection. It has nothing to do with the rights of women for which Dr Deshmukh has been fighting. This concerns both men and women—the bride and the bridegroom, and therefore it should not be said—because perhaps the women members of our Assembly might come forward and say that it is in order to defend their rights that Dr Deshmukh has brought forward this Bill and therefore they should support this Bill.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: This is also canvassing!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: It is on a par with the rest of the speech. Carry on.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may carry on.

Mr. P. B. Gole: In so far as this Bill for *sagotra* marriages is concerned, even the Shankaracharya of Kanchi Peet has given his opinion. He is our religious head and he has stated in para. 2 at page 27

"The faith of the Hindus in the wisdom of their Rishis is fortified by the experience of uncounted generations who have lived the Hindu mode of life. Every religious community observes, in a narrow or wide range, the prohibition of marriages within certain degrees of consanguinity. The instinct of objection, apart from the commands of religion, against marriages within certain degrees of affinity has been most ancient and universal. The Bill under reference wants to do away with that principle, as prescribed by the *Shastras*. The rules on this topic in the *Smritis* and their commentaries are clear, definite and emphatic. There are texts of Gobhila, Gautama, Manu, Katika, Yagnavalkya, Vasishtha, Shatapatha, Vyasa, Kartikeya, Narada and Patanjali, which unequivocally condemn *sagotra* marriages

is invalid. The Mitakshara expressly states that a girl who is a *sapinda*, *Sagotra*, or *Samanyaprasava*, does not acquire the status of a wife on marriage. Rishis, Apastamba, Shatapatha and Bodhayana clearly lay down that if a girl of the same *gotra* has been taken in marriage unwittingly, she must immediately separate and be treated like a mother. The idea of a *sagotra* marriage has been as repugnant to Hindus from the most ancient times, as the marriage of a brother and sister is among other religious communities."

You will see that our instinct is this, that in our own family we regard the womenfolk as our mothers or sisters, and to think of allowing a marriage between members of the same family is not only repugnant but is almost revolting. Our shastras are against it and even our religious heads have not countenanced it. In fact, as I said in the beginning of my remarks, if Dr. Deshmukh were to peruse—of course he has not the patience to pursue this—the opinions of learned people, learned in our shastras, he would have easily found out that there are very cogent reasons why a *sagotra* marriage should not be allowed. I would also give the proceedings of the meeting of the Hindu public held under the auspices of the Hindu Central Committee and presided over by Mr. Nagesha Rao. You will see that the Hindu public there have adopted this resolution. This is the Resolution passed in a meeting presided over by Shree A. Nagesha Rao.

"Resolved that the Hindu public of Punganu, emphatically protest against the introduction of *sagotra* and intercaste marriage Bills by Mr. Deshmukh in the Legislative Assembly as their provisions are subversive of Hindu religious law and culture, resulting in disruption of family and mischievously interfering with the existing law of inheritance of property of Hindu family and other kinds of untold misery. Resolved that the above Resolution be communicated to the Secretary, Varnasrama Swarajya Sangha, Madras to be forwarded to the authorities concerned."

Here you will see that the Hindu community in a meeting assembled here condemned the Bill. I will show a number of such Resolutions. Here is the Resolution of the Varnashrama Swarajya Sangha, Shimoga District, Mysore.

"This meeting not only condemns the Hindu Marriage Disabilities Removal Bill introduced by Mr. G. V. Deshmukh in the Central Legislative Assembly as it completely defaces the Hindu Dharma but also respectfully prays His Excellency the Viceroy not to give the slightest room for any such legislations."

You will see that the Hindu community resent the introduction of a Bill of this kind which interferes with their religion and culture. There is another Resolution of the same Sangha which says—

"This legislation will ruin the Hindu civilisation which has been in practice from thousands of years in regular order. If this legislation has been passed, Hindus will suffer much as it causes a great injury to their civilisation and Dharma. The legislations of this kind will in no way help but cause havoc in India. It comes in the way of freedom of Indians to be at peace and happy with their own religion and customs. This legislation is opposed to the promise given by Her Majesty Queen Victoria with a proclamation to Indians that in no way their religion and culture will be handled upon. Therefore we humbly and respectfully pray that no room should be given for any legislation which affects the Indians in their religion and customs."

Then there are a number of other protests. There is one from the Brahmin Congress in Madras.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member need not read all the individual opinions. It is sufficient if he gives the collective effect of them.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I will only give the salient facts.

Mr. President: These points may be taken up at 2-30.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 noon on Wednesday, the 6th November 1946 the time fixed for receiving nominations for the purpose of election of three members to the Defence Consultative Committee, four nominations were received. Subsequently one candidate withdrew his

[Mr. President] candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected —

1. Sardar Jogendra Singh
2. Mr. Sasanka Sekhla Sastry
3. Khwaja Nazim-uddin

In this connection I may point out that as Khwaja Nazimuddin has not so far taken the oath of office, he will not be able to function in the Committee until he takes the oath.

HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL.—*contd.*

Mr. P. B. Gole Sir, I was trying to give some of the important opinions regarding the *Sapota* marriage Bill and I have noted your suggestion that I should refer to them wherever my disesteeming character is mentioned. I will try to restrict myself to making such comments only as will throw further light on the objections that have been seriously taken to the Bill. In this connection I would like to point out that the Bombay Presidency Women's Council have passed a resolution and in that resolution although they approve of such marriages in Hindu law they say that the proposed legislation should not be allowed. Their opinion reads like this:

The Council says: "As the Bill on principle... But the Council is of opinion that such individual attempts to deal with Social betterment are not at all desirable as they will create great deal of trouble and disturb the present Social structure of the Hindu Community. Now when the Central Government has appointed a Special Committee to go into the details of revising the Hindu law in all its aspects, my Council would wish the same Committee to take up this question also."

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh May I ask if this resolution is in connection with the Bill or in connection with the other Bill?

Mr. P. B. Gole It is in connection with this Bill. With regard to the other Bill, there is of course tremendous opposition from the women also but this is not the time for it.

Now Sir, there is another very important opinion which is expressed by the All-India Muslim League Swamy Singh, Bombay. In the course of their opinion they observe:

"The Bill seeks to revolutionise the existing Hindu law of marriage by sweeping innovations of a drastic character introduced by the ancient *Rishis* and law givers, not on any sound principle but on the poor ground of expediency as stated in the preamble and for the benefit of a few so-called conscientious objectors to civil marriage who are heterodox and who do not represent the correct viewpoint of the Hindu *Shastras* and whose numerical strength is infinitesimally small and insignificant as compared with that of the orthodox Hindus all over India with overwhelming majority."

Further on they observe:

"Dr. Deshmukh has further urged that the rule of Hindu law prohibiting *Sapota* and *Saprasava* marriages is not necessary from the point of view of eugenics and stated that there can be no view of medical grounds against such marriage though he has defended on medical grounds the rule prohibiting marriages between *Sapinda* relations within the 7th degree is necessary. Here also the Doctor has failed to understand the exact significance and meaning of the words *Sapota* and *Sapinda* and their interrelation and tried to make out a distinction between them as if *Sapotas* are not blood relations while *Sapindas* are blood relations but which is clearly wrong as pointed out above. His remarks therefore in favour of *Sapota* marriages as being free from any objection from the point of eugenics and on medical grounds are misconceived and not to the point, and they do not deserve any serious consideration. It is hardly necessary to remind the learned Doctor that modern science has led to a collection of valuable statistics relating to heredity, problems of inheritance of blood and the organic relationship between several generations of ancestors and descendants and made a further advance into the laws governing the transmission of hereditary physical and mental qualities and predispositions from remote ancestors to their descendants and progeny which are not confined only to 7 degrees but which reach descendants even beyond 14 generations. In short the rule prohibiting marriages between blood relations is based on a natural law and a violation of which is bound to deteriorate the future population. The same rule is mentioned by the ancient Hindu law givers who have given a good deal of time to studying the value of such transmission."

I need not pursue this subject, but I have pointed out that the All-India Varnashrama Swarajya Sangha, Bombay, have very clearly answered the question of exigencies raised by the learned Doctor.

Now, Sir, there is another argument which has been answered by this very Varnashrama Swarajya Sangha, They say

"If the Doctor turns his eyes to history he will find that 'no religion of the world emblem of an ancient civilisation so continuous and unbroken as that of India and the worth and value of which have been proved by eminent scholars of the West. In India the ideas of the Vedic period still are a vital force and even the ritual of the *Rishis* is not wholly disused. It would therefore be rash and presumptuous if one argues that because the Vedic cult or religion is archaic being the oldest in the world it is barbarous, uncivilised and not worthy of being our ideal. Regarding the argument that several persons who favour the proposed reform in marriage have conscientious objection to civil marriage and that the Bill should therefore be passed for them, it may be said that the Mover has not shown what is the percentage of such persons in the total population of Hindus. It is submitted that such persons would be found to be very small fraction of the total population."

Then in paragraph 9 they say

"There is a further serious objection to the Bill that it is ambiguous as to and indefinite in as much as it seeks to validate marriage between the *sapnotas* which includes also *agnota sapnotas* within even degrees of blood relationship is pointed out above. The Mover has stated in the Bombay debate that his Bill is not going to affect Hindu law so far as blood relationship is concerned, but the Bill contains no specific clause exempting from its operation the law of marriage between *sapnotas* within seven degrees of blood relationship."

I have already referred to this in the course of my speech. Then there is this very important observation made by the Sangha

The Sangha further desires to point out here the well known principle of jurisprudence which is recognised and followed by all Governments, that if it is established that in a community a certain practice or custom not offending morals is traditionally followed by the people continuously for a very long period, it is the duty of the State to give protection against any interference with the exercise of the said practice or custom. It is therefore submitted that it is the duty of the British Government to protect the sacred rights of millions of religiously minded Hindus and preserve the integrity of their sacred law of marriage from legislative interference. The Sangha further submits that the Government should oppose the Bill in the interest of millions of orthodox Hindus and must not rights and have it thrown out on principle on the several grounds mentioned above.

Sir, I have given some important observations against *sapnotas* marriage. I will now give some views in favour of the Bill and show how the reasons given by them are not at all good reasons.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member need not read these opinion *in extenso*, he might give the gist and then give his own arguments.

Mr. P. B. Gole: You must have noticed Sir that I am not reading *in extenso* but merely touching on them. In fact the opinion of the Varnashrama Swarajya Sangha runs into five pages and I have read only a little portion of it.

Mr. President: What I mean is that extracts should not be read at great length. The memorandum or opinion may consist of several pages and the Honourable Member may read only a page of that. But all that he is quoting is mere repetition over and over again of the same argument in different words. Therefore he may just refer to the points and then reply to those points.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Besides, are we not supposed to have read those opinions? I expect copies are supplied to every Member?

Mr. President: Even without that assumption I am asking him to curtail his remarks.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Sir, I was going to point out the interpretation of *sapnotas* as put by the District and Sessions Judge of Ferozepur. He says

"Two persons are *sapnotas* if both of them are descended in the main line from the *Rishi* or sage after whose name the *gotra* is called. Two persons are *samanaprarata* i.e. of the same *prarata* if they are descendants in the main line of the three parental ancestors of the founder of the *gotra*."

He is against such legislation.

[Mr. P. B. Gole]

Similar instances could be given where the learned doctor's arguments in support of his Bill have been cogently answered by persons who are against this Bill. I will give you instances now of opinions in favour of the Bill. The Oudh Bar Association is in favour as also the District Judge of Ratnagiri who says

I am in favour of both the object and the provision of the Bill."

But he does not try to discuss the Shastric laws and the necessity for those laws and how that necessity has now disappeared. It seems to me that the opinion is practically prepared. They do not want to see what the old laws are and they go on saying that it is for the reformation of society. I may point out here that except perhaps in India old laws are everywhere expected. Even in England the rituals prescribed by the Catholic religion in cases of marriage are adhered to even now. And even in crowning the King the old methods are followed. They have preserved their old rites and customs. So far as Hindus are concerned, friends like Dr. Deshmukh are anxious to exercise and use their scissors or sharp knife and cut at the root of our religious texts. In this connection I will read the opinion of Sri Gurdas Banerjee, a very learned High Court Judge who in his book on Hindu Law and *Studian* says this on page 31:

"The importance of the institution of marriage is too well recognised to require any comment. It is the source of every domestic comfort from infancy to old age, it is necessary for the preservation and the well being of our species, it awakens and develops the best feelings of our nature, it is the source of important legal rights and obligations, and in its higher forms it has tended to raise the weaker half of the human race from a state of humiliating servitude. To the Hindu, the importance of marriage is heightened by the sanctions of religion. 'By no people,' says Sir T. Strange, 'is greater importance attached to marriage than by the Hindus.' In Hindu law it is regarded as one of the ten *sanskars* or sacraments, necessary for regeneration of men of the twice born classes and the only sacrament for women and *vudras*. It being a settled doctrine of the Hindu religion that one must have a son to save him from a place of torment called *put*, marriage, as the primary means to that end, becomes a religious necessity. This necessity, as regards the Brahman, is further pointed out in another way. 'A Brahman' says the Veda, immediately on being born, is produced a debtor in three obligations to the holy saints, for the practice of religious duties to the gods, for the performance of sacrifice to his forefathers, for offspring. Accordingly Manu ordains that 'after he has read the Veda, in the form prescribed by law, has legally begotten a son, and has performed sacrifices to the best of his power, he has paid his three debts.'"

You will see, Sir, that in Hindu society marriage has come to be regarded as a religious sacrament. It has got a religious duty and really speaking marriage laws are such as to elevate society. Now, Sir, by making these inroads into the expressed texts of Hindu Law, I submit that Dr. Deshmukh is doing a great disservice to our religion and to religious texts. He will not attach the same sanctity to marriage system and marriage institution as other Hindus attach and for that purpose he may require marriage to be simplified. But that is absolutely no reason why Dr. Deshmukh should try to revolutionise the Hindu Law which is followed by a majority of people who follow Hindu religion. A *via media* was arrived at by the Hindu Law Committee. In the Bill which was moved in this Assembly in 1943, they divided marriage into two parts, firstly sacramental form and secondly civil marriage, so that a Hindu could marry in either of the forms. Those who want to resort to sacramental form of marriage could perform the same according to the old Hindu Law under which *sagotra* relationship is prohibited for the purpose of marriage. But if they do not want to follow the laws laid down by Manu, then a provision is made for civil marriage under the Marriage Law. They had also made a provision in that Bill. Supposing a marriage is performed according to sacramental rights between *sagotras*, then they say that in such cases on account of some mistake or misapprehension on the part of those who performed the marriage, the doctrine of *factum valet* should be applied, and according to that doctrine if a marriage is proved to have been performed according to religious rights, although between *sagotras* still that should be recognised as a valid marriage. Therefore, without disturbing the texts of Hindu Law, so far as *sagotra* marriages are concerned they found out a *via media* by which the

object which Dr. Deshmukh has can be achieved. In this case, he would not have any conscientious objection because provision has been made for civil marriage where no question of consanguinity or sapindaship may arise. They can go and have the marriage registered and it can be regarded as a Hindu marriage and the progeny of that marriage would be entitled to succession according to Hindu Law. All these objects could have been met and as has been observed by the Rau Committee it would have been better if Dr. Deshmukh had not proceeded with such a Bill. This is what the Hindu Law Committee say on page 13.

To the impatient reformer we would commend the example of Switzerland in evolving the present Swiss Civil code. Until 1874, Swiss civil law was in the hands of the Cantons of which the Federation is composed. By the Federal Constitution Act of that year, power was given to the centre to enact legislation on certain branches of civil law, but with the exception of these branches civil law remained with the Cantonal authorities. It varied greatly in different parts of the country, French law predominated in certain Cantons, Austrian law in certain other Cantons, German law in yet others, and in the rest customary law modified by occasional statutes. The inconvenience resulting from this want of uniformity became more and more acutely felt as inter-Cantonal relations developed. Accordingly, in 1898 the constitution was amended so as to authorise the Central Legislature to unify the whole of the civil law in Switzerland. In the mean time a great jurist was commissioned to prepare a preliminary draft which occupied him from 1893 to 1899. The draft was published and another commission was appointed to consider the criticisms received and to revise the draft. This commission consisted not only of jurists but also representatives of all sections of thought in Switzerland, sub-committees being formed to consider certain parts of the code. Not until 1904 was the final draft submitted to Parliament. The debates in Parliament continued for three years. Finally in 1907 the code was passed by a unanimous vote in both Houses. But it did not come into force until January 1, 1912.

Sir, the committee was set up and the law being prepared and it took a long time. Now in the present case our Hindu Law Committee has been in existence only for the past four or five years. It is not really a long time. We have to take into consideration this complicated Hindu Law. I already said that the interpretations upon texts of Manu and Yagnyavalky differ in different provinces and therefore to codify the Hindu Law which will embrace all the points and all schools of thought must naturally take time. I suppose even if Dr. Deshmukh does not proceed with the Bill no harm will arise. On the contrary as I observed even the Rau Committee has pointed out that this piecemeal legislation is causing great confusion. It caused confusion in the past as far as the Women's right to property Act was concerned. Also during the last session when the Married Women's Separate Maintenance Act was passed, it was severely criticised by the law journals. You will see therefore that the remarks made by the Rau Committee hold good in the present case also that piecemeal legislation is no good. I have pointed out to you Sir and that is also the opinion of so many persons that the wording of the Bill is defective and is capable of different construction. As soon as you take away the word 'sagotra' then marriage between cousins of the first degree is quite possible. By the removal of the word *sagotra* from the Bill it will give rise to so many difficulties. Therefore if my friend Dr. Deshmukh sees through the defect

which is patent he will I suppose take back this Bill. He had better wait till the Law Committee makes its report and the Government pilots a full fledged Bill covering all sections of Hindu Law. Till then I say this Bill as it is introduced should not be proceeded with and it should be dropped.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (Member for Education and Arts)

Sir, in order to make a few matters clear I crave permission to speak on this subject. Most of the arguments advanced by the Honourable Member Mr. Gole, who opposed the Bill centre round the protection of Hindu culture and religion. There are two ways in which we may attempt to protect a religion or culture—one by maintaining its rigidity another by liberalizing it so that it may be more harmony with the environment in which it has to live. The latter, I submit, is much the better way in the present times. If we really wish to preserve Hindu culture and strengthen it I feel as a Hindu that we ought to liberalize Hinduism to be more in consonance with the present times and the spirit of the times.

[Sri C. Rajagopalachari]

What exactly we are trying to do now is a very little thing. The Bill before us is to make certain marriages legal which would be illegal according to the orthodox interpretation of the Hindu texts today. Had British courts not been instituted in India and things had been left to the people themselves, the Bill would not have been necessary. Progress would have been automatic, but the introduction of the British Courts and the petrification so to say of Hindu texts has led to various difficulties. I would ask Mr. Gole to think for a moment about the text with reference to eight forms of Hindu marriages. Even a marriage by force is recognized as one form of marriage according to that text. That is not to say that Hindu Law recognised force is justifiable but the doctrine of *factum tale* is a important doctrine in the Hindu Law. If a marriage has taken place, whatever may have been the rules made, the duties prescribed, once it has taken place the genus of Hindu Law recognizes the marriage is valid. This is necessary even if we forget Hindu culture and Hindu law. What is the position of a lady who has been married against the rule for which Mr. Gole is pleading. Is she to be declared to have entered into an illegitimate alliance and the children declared illegitimate and is she to be condemned for ever and prevented from correcting her position in life? I submit this is exactly the position according to law if any cousin or uncle chooses to inflict it on a *sagota* marriage. The present Bill is not a new thing. In 1912 I find a Bill was introduced in this House to bring about among other things the very change which the present Bill seeks to bring about. There is nothing therefore extraordinarily new or revolutionary in this matter. That Bill was not proceeded with for several reasons one of them being that a more comprehensive code was in contemplation. I very much appreciate the position taken by the last speaker that there should be a comprehensive law and that these changes should not be effected by piecemeal legislation like the one before us. But for that reason we cannot postpone all reform. It is now so many years since the idea was taken up and whatever the reason may be we have not yet brought into being that comprehensive code. It is not desirable that things should be left in this condition. After all this is not, as may be supposed by some, an unimportant thing. Marriage is, as was said by the last speaker, a very important thing and do not Hindu friends know the difficulties that parents and guardians of girls are facing today. The more the restriction the greater the difficulties of parents of girls will be. It is good for girl's sake at least, to remove some of these restrictions. It is necessary to make marriage as easy as possible without departing from the principle of sacredness of the bond.

Much was said about the special characteristic of Hindu marriages. It was argued that in Hindu law and in Hindu culture marriage is a sacramental union. I claim on behalf of non-Hindus that all marriages in all communities are sacramental unions and it is wrong to imagine that only Hindu marriages are sacramental. The Christian marriage is a sacramental as is the Hindu marriage and in spite of what the lawyers say the Islamic marriage is also a sacramental marriage. That there is divorce does not remove the sacramental character of a union, that they have also a contract embodied in the sacrament does not take away the sacramental character of the union. In Hindu union also I claim that there is a contractual union as well as a sacramental union. If we examine the very *mantras* or formulae uttered during the ceremony of marriages in which I am sure the previous speaker is expert, we shall find a contract in it. The words are repeated in Sanskrit and therefore they are not understood. There is as much of a contract in a Hindu marriage as there is in any other form of marriage. Therefore the point is not to be decided by laying stress on sacrament or contract. All I hope are sacramental and all we know are also contractual unions. Does a union become less sacramental because of this Bill? I submit not. Even after this Bill is accepted there will be no less of a sacramental union when two people marry who had previously been married on account of this rule and who hereafter will not be so married. There is confusion. I am sure not deliberate in the argument advanced by the previous speaker. Does the speaker not know

that two people can belong to the same *gotra* though they do not even belong to the same sub-caste, although the families are not related by blood, they are *sagotrias*, people whose whole life is totally separate from one another also happen to be *sagotrias*. I can imagine that Mr Gole may belong to the same *gotra* as mine, and yet my daughter cannot marry his son and his son cannot marry my daughter, though there is absolutely no blood connection between me and Mr Gole. This is if that is sought to be removed. The Bill is quite clear, but it can be made clearer still if there is any ambiguity. The Bill reads—

A marriage between Hindus, which is otherwise valid, shall not be invalid by reason only of the fact that the parties thereto—

- (a) belong to the same *gotra* or *pravar* ;
- (b) belong to different subdivisions of the same caste.”

That is to say if the bar of consanguinity is there, it shall continue to be there. But as doubts have been expressed by the previous speaker and probably may be expressed by others also there is no harm in adding an explanation to this Section that by the terms of this section it is not intended to remove any bar by way of consanguinity. I understand in amendment has been given by some member and that amendment if accepted would remove all possible doubt in the matter.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh : Could it not be added as an explanation—

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari : Yes, Sir. An explanation is just the form a provision should take when it is sought to remove a doubt. It is not intended by this section that the rule of proximity bar should be affected and that is why an explanation is an appropriate form for an amendment. All the arguments that have been advanced against this Bill are arguments which may be advanced against something totally different. If it was proposed by Dr. Deshmukh that brothers and sisters could marry or that cousins could marry all the arguments would be sound. But here it is not the intention. Would anybody who opposes this Bill be able to explain to me what this *gotra* connection is? Once upon a time it might have had a meaning but today it has no meaning. Today nobody can if I name the *gotra* to which I belong and give the names of five Rishis who form the *pravar* of my *gotra*, tell me why I claim this or on what ground I can claim it or why my man who belongs to the same *gotra* could not have the freedom to marry in my family. Nobody is today able to explain what *gotra* is. Of course research into antiquities may be made and we may be able to get some explanation, but it has no real validity in actual consciousness today. And that is why this very long overdue amendment is necessary. But the argument is if you want to give up any regulations of Hindu custom why don't you marry according to the civil law? Why do you want to change the law applicable to Hindu marriages as such? For this reason I answer. It is not merely a sentiment which too by itself is important. There are legal consequences following a marriage which is done under a Civil Marriage Act and not under ordinary Hindu Law. The law of succession and many other incidents would be involved and there is no reason why I should be compelled to give up the Hindu Law of Inheritance for my family if I seek to marry and the marriage is objected to only on the ground of this rule against *sagotra*. That is the reason why this law is necessary. It is a very small and not a fundamental alteration in the Hindu scheme of things. For instance, in the very same text which prohibits *sagotra* marriages, we also find that a boy should not marry a girl who is taller than himself and that a boy should not marry a girl who is older than himself. There is no doubt that from the artistic point of view also a boy may not care to marry a girl who is taller than himself or one older than himself. But yet such marriages do take place and they are very happy and accepted by the Hindu Law, and therefore it is from same text and in the same context both these prohibitions are derived. Our ancestors were not as rigid as Mr Gole wants us to be. They change and changed very freely and the law of *factum valet* came to help. In all matters and in dealing with marriage the Shastrias gave advice. But when somebody disobeys, they did not want to punish the issue by declaring such a marriage invalid. If we do not change this law we will

[*Shri C. Rajagopalachari*]

make marriages difficult. It is not a small matter. I refer to the dowry custom and other difficulties in the way of marriages for girls. Many orthodox Hindus have appealed for a change of the law or some legal enactment to relieve them of the hardships arising out of the dowry practice, and if we liberalise the scope for marriage by removing the bar against castes or one thing or another, to that extent we make it easier for people to marry and get their girls and boys married, and I think Mr. Gole should welcome a change in that direction.

The essential of marriage, let us remember is that we want the boy and the girl to be happy. If a boy and a girl who belong to the same *gotra* wish to marry, why should we prevent it? I am unable to see any reason whatsoever. It is quite a different thing if you could point out in what Hindu culture or Hindu religion is affected. Although we heard a very long speech from Mr. Gole, we did not hear any valid arguments that could appeal to a reasonable man. I am putting it rather strongly. I wish him, if he can, to show why two persons who have no consciousness of any blood relationship whatsoever, but yet who belong to the same *gotra* should be prevented from marrying? It is as if we should give obedience to an *abracadabra* formula which we do not understand, and that is what is sought to be achieved. I hope, Sir, the House will accept the Bill.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces, No-Muhammadan Urban). It was with profound respect, mingled with pity, that I heard the speech of my friend, Mr. Gole in opposition to this Bill. The speaker, who preceded me has made, in his own characteristic way, mince-meat of what Mr. Gole said, and therefore perhaps it will not be quite in fitness of things for me to go ahead with demolishing his arguments point by point. There was a saying, when Mr. Asquith was alive in the House of Commons that whenever there was a difficulty, somebody used to whisper bring the sledge hammer and Mr. Asquith was called in and he used to make short-shrift of the arguments of the opponents. In our House, in the Honourable Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, we have got a veritable sledge hammer. He has made short work of the arguments of my friend, Mr. Gole. I would not go into details, but still I would like to make a few observations while supporting this bill.

While I was hearing Mr. Gole, I thought to myself if perchance Dr. Deshmukh had brought in a measure validating, at this late hour, widow re-marriages, how would my honourable friend Mr. Gole have reacted? I believe he would have reacted just in the same manner in which he reacted to the present measure. Perhaps he would have been still more vehement in his denunciations. Let it be understood very clearly that the present measure is a definite incroad on the Hindu law as it exists today. Let there be no gainsaying of that fact. Knowing full well as we do that we cannot go on with our ancient customs and traditions and laws and realising as we do the need of the hour, we come here with such a legislation. To say that it is a piecemeal legislation, that the whole Hindu Law should be codified and that before that is done no relief is to be given in any direction in order to enable the Hindu society to face the music of the present juncture, is an argument which I have never been able to understand. I can very well consider the necessity of tackling problems with which the Hindu society is faced even in a piecemeal way and therefore to say that a legislation like this is of no avail does not lead us anywhere.

Mr. Gole did not like the idea and he asked a question. What did Dr. Deshmukh mean by saying that society is very much advanced? If we are so obtuse as not to see the very obvious nobody can make us see. But the problems are there. The times have changed. Doubts have arisen in our mind and we really want to penetrate behind the rationale of the whole traditional bias with which we are ridden. Why is the present day Hindu not satisfied by mere quotation from either Yagnavalkya or Manu? He wants to see things through; he wants to see behind things as to what the reasons are and you cannot satisfy the present generation of Hindus if you only know how

to throw the injunctions of the ancient scriptures in his face. I can tell you that you will not thereby be protecting the Hindu society. Realise that there is a revolt in Hindu society today. Realise also that the present day Hindu young man does not want to accept things merely because it is an *Apta pramanam*. The *Apta pramanam* must be logical and the mind of man must be convinced of the reason behind that *apta pramanam*. Argument *um ad hominem* cannot be carried too far and therefore I think if Mr. Gole looks dispassionately at this small amendment which Mr. Deshmukh wishes to introduce into the marriage law of the Hindu, he will realise the necessity for it and he will tone down his opposition, which he has so very vehemently displayed today in this House. Many of the opinions which he inflicted upon us from that document with him have left me absolutely cold and, as the Honourable Mr. Rajagopalachari pointed out, there is absolutely no connection between *Sapinda* and *Sagotra*. I am a Parashar by *gotra*—a Brahmin belonging to the Northern or Central India. The Honourable Mr. Rajagopalachari might be also a Parashar by *gotra* (who knows) and yet I am never conscious of having had the privilege of any relationship whatsoever with his ancestors. So, after all, the *gotra* business and the *patni* business have lost all the rationale that might have been behind them in generations gone by. Today they have become meaningless shibboleths and we cannot allow our society's advance to be retarded by such considerations. As a matter of fact the Honourable the Education Minister referred to an amendment which is sought to be introduced in this Bill as an explanation. When I am standing here to offer my support to the Bill, perhaps it is not the time when I should move the amendment and therefore I will seek your permission, Sir, to move it when the proper time for it comes. But if there is any doubt on that point, as the Honourable the Education Minister has said, that doubt can be set at rest by introducing a sort of explanation that with the removal of *sagotra* and *saprarav* barriers from the Hindu marriage, the marriages will not become consanguine. Therefore I think that that objection of Mr. Gole can be met by that explanation.

Mr. Gole has said that this sort of permission offends against our sense of religion and that Hindu marriage being sacramental it should not be trifled with. As a matter of fact nobody likes to trifle with such serious happenings in life as marriage or birth or even death and if we do it we do so at our own risk or peril. We are not trifling with marriage by introducing this change. We are simply trying to rationalise the whole thing. Marriages, barring marriages amongst the same *gotras* have been a practice in our society for a long time as a stabilising factor. Mr. Gole has quoted many sentences from the law on the subject contained in Sir Gurudas Banerjee's book. Mr. Gole should not be surprised to find that even today a majority of the Hindu community does not observe what he calls *sagotra* and *saprarav* barriers. I think the majority in the Hindu society do not belong to the *Dvijas* or the upper three classes—the *Brahmins*, the *Kshatriyas* and the *Varshyas* and yet I would like to see the face of that man who will not call our *Sudras*, who are the true pillars of society any the lesser Hindus than the *Dvijas* themselves. They should also consider one thing. If even today amongst the majority communities in the Hindu society these restrictions do not exist and still they have not ceased to be very vile and very brave Hindus there is absolutely no reason why the upper classes should stick to these restrictions.

I would not like to take much of the time of the House by answering so many other points which my friend has raised today during this discussion. I would only say that if we do not pass this Bill today into an Act we shall be really laying the axe at the very root of Hindu society.

With these words, Sir, I support the Bill of my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I must congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Gole for his very lucid exposition and the manner in which he put forth the case of the ancients. I am glad that he has studied the subject so very well.

(Sri M. Annambasayam Ayyangar.)

There is no doubt that by this Bill my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh wants to make an amendment into our ancient Hindu law. Let us be clear about it. It is another question to find whether such an amendment, knowing it definitely that it is an amendment contrary to the accepted principles of Hindu law which we have been following not only recently but for ages past and the history of which objection or prohibition were not now able to trace—having observed that injunction for so long whether it is necessary to continue the prohibition against such marriages is another. With all respect I would urge upon my honourable friend to consider whether our ancestors have not been modifying the injunctions regarding marriage from time to time. I will only remind him that at that time—about 3000 years ago—a number of Scythians had doubts whether all the injunctions that were originally laid in the Manu and other texts should thereafter be adopted, having regard to the change of times. They went to Avesta who took the Rishis to his father Parasara to whose *gotra* my friend Pandit Balkrishna Shama belongs. Parasara's text supersedes Manu Smriti and is the ruling text so far as *Kali* is concerned. Parasara told these Scythians that having regard to the change of times it is not longer obligatory upon them to adopt all these injunctions—it was not easy—and therefore he gave a new text, and lastly he said

"Whenever there is any doubt or difficulty and if there is any matter which I have not covered, you apply to three learned men who is called a *parishad* and whatever they prescribe shall be the law."

Now, I would have welcomed my honourable friend, having placed this matter before the *parishads* of his own countrymen who believe in the ancient texts of Hindu law and who have also got a progressive outlook and who are ready to modify it according to the needs of the society. No doubt opinions have been gathered from various persons, but today we do not have the *parishads* of this kind. In these circumstances, this Assembly has to take the place of that *parishad*, and after my honourable friend Rajaji has spoken about what I wanted to speak on this subject, I have been a little unnerved. I only wanted to suggest that having regard to the fact that some text of Hindu law which governs the entire continent of India has been interpreted differently in different schools—in Madras there is one interpretation, in Bombay there is another, in Mithila or Benares there is a third and in Bengal there is a fourth—these several interpretations have come into existence according to the particular usages and customs which are in advance of the law. Usages of particular people run in advance of the law and the law comes afterwards to settle difficulties and doubts that may have arisen after the practices which make amendments into the previous texts of law. Therefore these text writers, who were not Scythians or *nishis* themselves, though they are not our *gurus* or *acharyas*, have taken note of the change of times, and of the usages that have grown up in accordance with those times. I claim that we have got a right to make similar changes whenever these changes are necessary. I am a conservative to this extent that unless there is sufficient justification to change the old practice or unless the old practice is obnoxious either on moral grounds or is dangerous to public safety, I am not prepared to change the ancient texts. The way in which I would like to be satisfied as regards the need of this Bill is whether the need has arisen whether really the circle of getting brides and bridegrooms has become so narrowed on account of various circumstances that it is necessary for us to enlarge the field and do away with the injunction that *sagotra* marriages should not be allowed.

So far as the scientific aspect of it is concerned, science has yet to disclose on what grounds these injunctions have been laid. We have been told in various textbooks on heredity that these special qualities persist for seven generations but there may come a time when we find that the chromosomes which have been found to play an important part in the sexes and in the characteristics of individuals and in races also would affect them—we do not know. Therefore I am not prepared to condemn that prohibition against *sagotra* marriages or to say that it may not be good even today. But in some parts of our

country—whatever may be the necessity to have *sagolia* marriages—on account of the caste having become narrowed as in the Madras Presidency, the people themselves have tried to circumvent this rule. We heard in the opinions read by Mr. Gole that in the southern part of the Bombay presidency there is a practice for *sagolia* marriages being celebrated by the daughter being given away in adoption to another *gotra*. I am not aware of any text of Hindu law which allows the adoption of a daughter except in the case of a daughterless girl, but all the same this practice has been adopted to evade the prohibition in the texts against *sagolia* marriage, which otherwise will become invalid. And that is so. I am certainly in favour of legislating the practice instead of trying to circumvent a text of the Hindu law. I am also aware of the instances that were quoted of a practice prevailing in Orissa of persons who serve as priests in the temple of the Lord Jagannatha who cannot marry except in a narrow circle as they cannot get brides or bridegrooms and therefore a similar system has been adopted for a long time when a father's rights to other *gotras* in adoption which is done just before the marriage itself and thus between two different *gotras* the marriage union is celebrated. Therefore there seems to be in some parts of the country a need to get out of this *gotra* trouble, because it is not as if we are making an innovation today—the practice has been there and we are only trying to legislate that practice. My honourable friend Mr. Gole might remember that some few years ago an Act was passed in this legislature to validate Arya marriages between different castes with retrospective effect otherwise about 150 to 200 marriages would have become invalid and the children would have been dubbed as bastards. Therefore, it might be necessary in some parts of our country to make this innovation. All that I am urging my honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh who is the sponsor of this Bill is to accept a small amendment that it may be left to the various provincial governments to bring this Bill into operation on such date as the provincial government might by notification in the official Gazette so declare. All that I am trying to do is this—in my part of the presidency I am not aware of any need for legislation of this kind immediately. Further marriage legislation is a concurrent subject—it is in the concurrent list there are not many opinions urging the need of such kind of legislation so far as my province is concerned. I had a talk with my honourable friend Mr. Gole and he consented with one other small amendment to my amendment—that instead of leaving it to the provincial government to notify the date on which this shall come into operation the Provincial government in consultation with the Provincial Assembly should do it. We need not now be afraid of the Provincial Assembly at all for this reason that the Provincial Assemblies now are broad based and more representative than the present assembly here. People come in there on a wider franchise and seeing that this is a concurrent subject it must be left to them to decide whether this Bill ought to come into operation at all or not.

Therefore as far as I have been able to judge if only my honourable friend can persuade himself to accept this amendment I do not think my honourable friend Mr. Gole would seriously press his opposition to the introduction of this Bill. It is left to my honourable friend to decide.

So far as the various provinces are concerned, there is no need for uniformity. No doubt, so far as *sagolia* is concerned it is a prohibition against marriages in any part of India. To that extent we have got jurisdiction, and it is right that we should pass some legislation to bring about uniformity but I would urge upon my honourable friend to see if that ought to be the guiding principle in respect of all kinds of legislation. There is another piece of legislation before this House. We have not been uniform with respect to marriages and other customs. In my part of the country, one can marry his maternal uncle's daughter. That is an incest according to the regular texts of Hindu law,—Mann and Yagnavalkya and Parasara, it is an incest in northern India; still that practice goes on, a man can marry his sister's daughter in my part of the presidency it is not allowed in other parts.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: It is allowed in Maharashtra

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You are also a Deccanese, but not in northern India. In Bengal a man with a number of children can be adopted. In Bombay a person who is married and has children can be adopted along with his children and himself into another family, whereas in my presidency and other parts of India only a bachelor can be adopted and not a married man. I would only be too glad if myself, my family and my grandchildren were all adopted in a rich man's family and there will be no need for legislation. Therefore when we talk of this, let us not make it appear that all the injunctions in Hindu law are so bad that we must adopt wholesale or in parts all new ideas from the West or other parts of the world. Let us not be disgusted with our ancients. I am proud of them. I am deeply pained to hear some of my friends speak as though what we have done all these years is wrong. Under Muhammadan Law, a person the son of a mother, cannot marry a girl not on the ground of consanguinity but merely because she was suckled by his mother. There is that prohibition. There is also the prohibition that a brother and a sister, though not born of the same womb, cannot marry. Such injunctions are there. All the same modifications have been made from time to time if they are found necessary in view of changing conditions. There seems to be a case for some modification so far as Bombay is concerned and some parts of Orissa are concerned but it is not so with respect to other provinces. Therefore I say that this legislation should not be imposed upon all provinces. The matter must be left to the Provincial Governments to bring it into operation on such date as they think fit. The Provincial Governments are broadbased now. I accept the principle that we must change our texts wherever necessary. I am not seeking to stand by particular text for all time without any alteration. I would urge my Honourable friend to accept the modification I have suggested when I shall move the amendment. I support the Bill.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I thoroughly appreciate the motive of my Honourable friend Mr. Gole when he opposed this Bill. I concede that whatever he has said has been said because he feels that way. I agree with him that our Shastras must not be lightly dealt with. I agree with him that our culture is very ancient, and that in the Hindu culture there is enough scope for progress. I only want him to go a little further. I carefully listened to his speech and the three main points which he tried to make out I shall in my own way try to answer.

The first point that he made out was that this is a religious matter and this House is not competent to legislate in matters which are religious. In the first place I do not know what he exactly means by 'religion'. As I understand it in my own humble way I divide it into two aspects—one which is spiritual and in that sphere I agree with him that this House, in fact no person in the world, has any right to interfere but so far as the other aspect is concerned, namely those rules and injunctions which are meant for the security of the society, for the progress of society, are matters in which the learned of the land as well as the law giver have a right to interfere. In fact, they have a duty to the society, being the leaders of social thought. The word '*dharma*' as defined means *Dharama Dharma iti alu*—that which holds together. If our experience were to find that that code or that body of rules which has been so far understood as *dharma* is not able to answer, is not able to discharge the function which was expected of it, I think it is only wisdom that we must change. Now so far as the competence of this legislature is concerned, this is not the first time such a point has been raised. You will find that during the last 75 years several enactments which according to the assumption of Mr. Gole were obviously interference with religious matters have been passed by this House and its predecessors—The Freedom of Religion Act, Caste Disabilities Removal Act, Hindu Widows Remarriage Act and what is popularly known as the Sarda Act or the Child Marriage Restraint Act. I remember when the amendment of the Original Sarda Act was under discussion the same objection was raised not only by members of the Hindu community who

were members of this House but that objection was also urged by some members of the Muslim Community because they also believed that it was a sort of interference with their religious faith. On that occasion I pointed out from the Histories of various Muslim countries how when there was a conflict between morality as understood by every sensible man in the world and the strict tenets of the religion it was always religion that had to stand down. If a measure is calculated to advance social justice, to secure more social security, then no religious injunction should be allowed to stand in the way. I think this House has established beyond doubt its competence to legislate in matters such as marriage and succession and several other things. It is very late in the day now to contest the competence of this House and so far as this Bill is concerned it would have been much better if this objection had been taken by my Honourable friend Mr Gole when the motion for reference to the Select Committee was under consideration.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I raised objection then also.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: The House then accepted the reference in that case and the question merely becomes one of academic interest. Now, as I listened to my Honourable friend Mr Gole, I was at a loss to know whether he was opposed to this Bill because it was a piecemeal legislation and not a full Code dealing with all aspects of the Hindu law,—marriage, succession, adoption, etc. If that is so, then his objection assumes a different aspect. His objection is to the form and not to the contents. But I gather and I assume also that his objection is not merely to the form in which this matter has been brought before the House but he also refers to the substance of this piece of legislation.

My Honourable friend Mr Gole was referring to a recent judgment of the Bombay High Court in which the marriage between a man and a woman belonging to the same *gotra* was held valid. It is true, no doubt, that the decision was based on the ground that the girl was given in adoption and a custom to that effect was proved, but in the observations of Justice Gajendra-gadker this House will find some indication of the mind of the High Court Judge, for he says

‘Notions of good social behaviour and the general ideology of the Hindu society have been changing, with the growth of modern sciences and as a result of the impact of new ideas based on a strictly rational outlook of life, Hindu customs and usages have changed. The custom as to marriages between persons of the same *gotra* which I have held proved in this case is an eloquent instance in point. Between the letter of the law and *sadachar*—good conduct, according to the consciousness of the community—there is obviously great variance. It follows, therefore, that the prohibitions which have been so emphatically enunciated by the *Nibandha* writers in this connection have not, for a considerable time past, conformed to the usage and custom recognised by the community. In such a case it is obviously the duty of the legislature to intervene and to amend the material provisions of Hindu law so as to make them consistent with the custom and usage prevailing in society and thus help to place the Hindu law of marriage on a more rational basis.”

Now, Sir, I do not accept the view that ancient Hindu law is either infallible or is something which can never be changed. It is not like the laws of Medes and Persians. In fact, law ought to be an aid and not hindrance to the social progress of the community. If the law cannot keep pace with the growing public opinion, it has got to be changed and there are recognised ways by which this can be done and by which the law can be brought into line with what is called positive morality or public opinion. One is legislation and another is to interpret it in such a manner that although the letter of the law remains the same, the spirit has undergone a change consistent with the changing spirit of the time. The third is to recognise customs. So, in one way or the other, the law is liberalised for the progress of the society. Now, my Honourable friend Mr Gole will agree that if it was the view of our ancient Rishis that the law, which has been pronounced once by Manu, is to remain as it is for ages to come, then it is difficult to reconcile to the fact that after Manu there have been several law givers, there have been different interpretations and there have been different *Smritis*. The very fact that

[Sjt N V Gadgil]

there are several *Smritis* goes to show that they must have been compiled with a view to bring the law in consonance with positive morality of that time.

Now, I go further. If we accept the fact that law is an indication as to how the course of society and as to how the conduct of several individuals constituting the society are to be governed, it follows that it can never remain stationary, it can never be static. In fact, the modern philosophy of law is that it must change. At the same time, I do not mean to suggest that just as we change the page of the calendar every morning, the law should be changed every session of the Assembly. No, that is not the idea. I do agree that there must be a substantial body of public opinion before it becomes the duty of social leaders and legislators to undertake some legislation by which the desired end is achieved. My Honourable friend Mr Gole will agree and he has, in fact, stated so in the course of his speech, that in Hindu law custom overrides the text. Now, custom and tradition are not mere words. They represent certain ideas. What are the ideas behind these words "custom and tradition"? If a thing is done once, it cannot become a tradition. It must be done so often and it must be repeated so often that it begins to be tolerated. Custom emerges when opposition yields to indifference and indifference to toleration. Then I think it is time when the leaders of the society ought to make a move. I therefore bring to the notice of the House that in so far as my impression is concerned, it has reached that stage and the best proof of that is the judgment of Justice Gajendragadkar, which I have already read out. We have to change or perish. Sn, change or perish is the watchword of nature. I quite remember years ago it was the view that if there was a forcible conversion the man was lost to the caste. But now after a quarter of a century, I find the leaders of the Hindu society are coming to a right point of view. After all, faith is not a matter which can be enforced. In fact, faith and force are two opposite things. That clearly shows that we have to change otherwise we will have to perish.

Now, my friend Mr Gole read several texts from Yagnavalkya, Manu Smriti and other *Smritis*. The main text on which the whole thing is based contains the word "*prashasyate*". My Honourable friend Mr Gole will agree that, when translated, it means 'recommended'. When a girl and a boy are not in the degree of consanguinity—*sapindaship*—a marriage between them is recommended. Marriage otherwise is not prohibited and no amount of grammatical quibbling on the part of any Shastris here or outside will convince anybody that that interpretation is not justified by the text.

[At this stage Mr President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yunus Khan)]

It was suggested by the Honourable Mr. Rajagopalachari that in certain text in which this provision or prohibition is embodied that the girl should be *yayiyasi*, she should be *arogini* and she should be *bhratrimati* (having brothers). But very often a girl is selected if she has no brothers because then inheritance comes. On such occasions no religion figures. If these three adjectives which are embodied in the same text which says that *sagotra* marriage is barred are not construed as prohibitory, if these three adjectives are merely recommendatory, I fail to see why the other adjective should be mandatory and not recommendatory. It must be a very queer grammar. Grammar means system, consistency, clarity. I, therefore, submit that the word "*prashasyate*" really means 'recommended'.

Going further my Honourable friend Mr. Gole asked what was the necessity for having such a piece of legislation. I have already answered him by quoting the very judgment to which he made reference. But I want to inform him that there are certain castes in this country among whom it is very difficult to have marriageable boys. You marry outside the caste or you marry one who belongs to the same *gotra*. The result has been social unhappiness.

In provinces in which Hindus are in a great majority the scarcity of bridegrooms may not be felt so much, but if my Honourable friend Mr Gole refers to the opinions of those Hindus who live in the North-West Frontier, like Veli Chand Khanna and others, he will find that they have welcomed this Bill because they know the difficulties of the situation. If the ancient Shastias laid this down as a prohibition I cannot imagine that they did it without any reason. In those days the joint family was there consisting of mothers and cousins and it was only necessary that a certain decorum must be observed and it is for that that this prohibition was specially enacted. As has been well said, a joint family consisting of relations several degrees removed was the normal condition of society, and in order to guard the chastity of Hindu girls in such families it became necessary to lay down these rules with a religious rigour that they might deter any member of the family from entertaining the idea of marrying another member thereof. And if you go to the etymological meaning of the word '*gotra*' it only means a place where cows are kept. In those days when society was in its infancy there was a sort of organisation based on some principle that if some people live in a particular locality or as if they were one people, just as Anglo-Saxon Tun and German Zaun became a town indicating one community. In the same way those who lived in one place came to be called people of the same '*gotra*'. Big joint families are rare and communities are no longer confined to towns. Society has progressed. It has moved from status to contract. Now my honourable friend Mr Gole will obviously agree that, so far as *Kshatriyas* are concerned, they simply borrowed the '*gotras*' of Brahmins. Will that rule hold good and will it have any propriety so far as *Kshatriyas* are concerned? No, Sir. If my Honourable friend Mr Gole says that this is a great assault on Hindu society he will agree that except the Brahmin community this prohibition is not found in any section of the Hindu community. It is confined strictly to three or four per cent and even within this section in many places and in many communities this has also gone. If the reason of the rule was then good the reason has now gone. If the significance is gone and the symbol remains we are to be so foolish as to hug it to our breast? No, the needs of the time must be taken into consideration. Modern philosophy of law as I said a few minutes ago contemplates continuous progress and contemplates law as a dynamic force. The old conception of law as negative and prohibitory influence is gone and now it is a positive agency whereby social progress can be achieved. Just as in the sphere of taxation we always held that taxation was simply for the purpose of taking as much as was needed for the expenditure of Government but the modern idea is that it is something by which we can secure a more equitable distribution of wealth. In the same way law is not something which tells you not to do this or that—it has that character of doubt—but it is at the same time an agency whereby we can accelerate the progress of our society towards objectives that we may have in view. Ancient societies required a different set of principles. In this connection the House will be interested if I read a few observations from Bentham's book '*Principles of the Civil Code*':

"If there were not an insurmountable barrier between near relatives called to live together in the greatest intimacy, their contact, continual opportunities, friendship itself and its innocent excesses, might kindle fatal passions. The family, that retreat where repose ought to be found in the bosom of order, and where the movements of the soul agitated by the fires of the world ought to grow calm would itself become a prey, to all the inequalities of rivalry and to all the furies of passion. Suspicious would banish confidence—the tenderest sentiments of the heart would be quenched—eternal enmities or vengeance, of which the bare idea is fearful, would take their place. The belief in the chastity of young girls, that powerful attraction to marriage, would have no foundation to rest upon, and the most dangerous anarchy would be spread for youth in the very asylum where it could least escape."

Now, Sir, families although claiming one '*gotra*' are not living in the same way. They are dispersed all over the country. It might interest my Honourable friend Mr Gole to know that he is at the head of the...

[Sjt N V Gadgil]
 migrated to Berar and I have remained in my province. This is so everywhere. As was suggested by the Honourable Mr. Rajagopalachari if there is nothing to make parties feel that they belong to the same *gotra*, why should there be prohibition or banning of marriage between them? I submit, Sir, we have to lay down one test. Find out what was the reason of the rule for any particular *shastric* injunction. If that reason does not hold good today, we must disregard it, not in a spirit of disrespect. I will not yield even to my Honourable friend Mr. Gole in my respect for ancient *shastras* or Hindu culture, but at the same time, I owe a duty to my future generations. I stand today at that moment of history which connects past with the future. I am the inheritor of all that is best from the past, but at the same time, when I go, I must leave something better. If I have found the world wrong, let me make it less wrong, if I have found it good, let me make it and leave it better. To sum up if the reason for the rule is not available, then the rule has got to be changed. The proper line of argument should be what the society requires should be done. My Honourable friend Mr. Gole suggested that those who were anxious for *sugatta* marriage should resort to the provisions of Civil Marriage Act. I would just refer to the disabilities imposed under that Act.

"A marriage under the Act severs *ipso facto* the person from the co-parcenary family. For the purpose of the right of succession the person who marries under the Act shall have the same rights and be subject to the same liabilities as the person to whom the Caste Disabilities Removal Act applies. Succession to the property of any person marrying under the Act is regulated by the provisions of the Indian Succession Act. A person marrying under the Act shall not have the right of adoption, and when a person marries under the Act, his father, if he has no other son living, shall have the right to adopt another person as a son. The implication of the disability in clause (5) above is that the marriage of any person under the Act may be tantamount to his death so far as the family is concerned and the right of succession is given to him as an outcaste. Why when he is anxious to have as much of ancient culture as he can, he should be driven to resort to an enactment which denies him many facilities, in fact penalises him? I submit that the right point of view is to go ahead with this legislation although it is piecemeal.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar said that Hindu law is interpreted in different ways in different provinces. That establishes the case for having uniformity. If it is interpreted in different ways, let us have one legislator and it is the function of the Central Government or the Federal Government to have a normative law or a model law, as they say so that it may be a great guide and direction to the constituent states. Therefore I am against the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar. Let us pass the Bill as reported by the Select Committee and contribute something towards the progress of Hindu society. Sir, I support.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs, Muhammadan Urban). Sir, I know a *mlechha* like me has no business to interfere in a purely domestic matter pertaining to Hindu society. But, Sir, I bow in homage to Mr. Gole for trying to place before the House the point of view to which I also subscribe. I know that the law must keep pace with the progress of society. I fully appreciate and support the view of Dr. Deshmukh. You will appreciate, Sir, that in order to meet difficulties of the type that have arisen in Hindu society, Muslim law makers gave us a principle called *iyama' ul-umma*, that is when there was a consensus of opinion in Muslim society, to that extent we could change the law, so long as it did not interfere with the text of the Quran. The Hindu law and Muhammadan law since what is known as the British Connection have changed considerably. There have been inroads from almost every side which neither the Hindu nor the Muslim could stop. Our laws, as they exist to-day, are Privy Council made law. This piece of legislation which we are now discussing has been described as an inroad. I am prepared to allow inroads made by the society which is going to change the law. That is

why, Sir, I began my remarks with the assertion that I should have nothing to say about the topic that is being discussed. But may I, Sir, sound a note of warning to the House that progress does not necessarily mean the biological theories of marriage or progressive conceptions of marriage, one hears of as existing in the West, and particularly in Moscow. My note of warning is that if it comes into the head of this House to make use of its sledge-hammer majority and interfere with the law which is mine, I am afraid argument of the type used this afternoon about progress and about law keeping pace with society may not meet with the approval of Muslim opinion and may not be acceptable to Muslims. I am, therefore, trying just to raise this note of warning that in the mad rush for initiative progress the personal law of the Muslims in India, shall not be interfered with by majorities in legislatures, for as I have submitted progress does not exist in Washington, London or Moscow alone. The sooner we get out of that intellectual slavery the better. Let the Hindu change his law as one Honourable Member said from day to day like the dates in the calendar, but let it be in response to the consensus of opinion, so to say of the *ijma ul-umma* of the Hindu social group. We heard arguments that the *Mitakshara* law was interpreted in different parts of the country differently, but whether under conditions such as these people in different provinces should be forced to accept things as the Bill visualizes, is a matter again for friends who are part of the Hindu social structure to decide. I shall watch their progressive steps with great interest, but I must request them not to go ahead too fast. There may be institutions in our Indian society, both Hindu and Muslim, which if studied carefully may lead us to the opinion that all that shines in the Western world is not gold. We may be able to teach them many a lesson. An Honourable Member talked of the Sharda Act. We also understand that child marriages are not good. Muslim countries have adopted measures to regulate such marriages, but the point is that here in India we objected to the non-Muslim British Government interfering with the fundamentals of our law. We would not allow a non-Muslim Government even to judge whether *ijma ul-umma* in India was or was not unfavourable. It was for this reason that Muslim opinion was opposed to it. To-day it may be marriage and tomorrow it may be something else. The history of the East India Company and the influence of *padris* on the earlier British legislations in this country, you will agree with me, Sir, interfered with Muslim society as well as Hindu society very deeply. Whether we should call it progress or advancement, I leave to individual Members to decide, but whatever it is, I should not like the fundamentals of my religion to be interfered with. And religion, Mr Deputy President, is not a Friday affair for me like the Christian religion in the pews of the Church on Sundays. I believe in religion as affecting this life of mine and the next. You know the prayer we repeat daily—'Oh Lord! Give me betterment here as well as in the next world.' We do not make any distinction between the Church and the State because to us the Church is the State and the State is the Church, and our religion, I am proud to state, has gone on taking into it anything and everything that would have raised the moral stature of man. We have accepted many progressive concepts and theories on the basis of the adage "take what is pure and shun what is impure", for again may I, Mr Deputy President, suggest that all that glitters in the Western world is not gold.

Sir, I should like to support Dr Deshmukh's Bill, and after the explanation given that consanguinity or *sapindaship* is not going to be interfered with and *sagotraship*, as explained by gentlemen who can speak with greater authority on the point, has ceased to exist in the way in which it was understood centuries ago, consequently if *sagotraship* is broken this Bill does not do any harm. It rectifies a fiction that has existed for long. A *factum valet* is being made law. Sir, Honourable Members from Gujarat will realise that due to the scarcity of girls a certain section of the Kurbi caste arranges marriages only in the *adhik-mas* (the extra thirteenth month) after every 12 years and when I was a school boy reading in Ahmedabad and later on I have been shown a girl of

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

two married to a man of about sixty-two. These things have interfered with the basic principles of the law-givers of Hinduism. If the new law-giver tries to create a better balance of Hindu outlook on life, I think it is a step in the right direction. This inroad, Sir, I hope will also interfere with the caste system as it happens to be to-day. The Honourable colleague to my right talked of the *Brahmana*, the *Kshatriya* and the *Vaishya* as different from the *Shudra* and said that the three upper classes had stuck more or less to the *sagotraship*, but the fourth class had not. I hope this law will make an inroad into the upper three classes and that the terrible strictness and rigidity of the caste system will begin to break because with the breakage of the caste system, which exists nowhere else in the world except in our country, there will be less trouble in India. It has made Hindu society non-absorptive. If it could open wide its doors on which the legend is "thou shalt not enter", this two-clause Bill embodying a change of a fundamental principle of Hindu law might lead to the solution of the problem of unanimity of outlook and vision in the different groups among the Hindus forming the population of this country. If this little Bill spreads all over the country, I feel, Sir, that our terrible problem of Hindu-Muslim, *Brahmana* non-*Brahmana*, *Hindu-Panchama* problem will perhaps be placed on the road to a solution.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: I move

"That the question may now be put."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, I will take only two or three minutes. I see that the House is already in favour of this Bill. I will therefore request my Honourable friends who have given notice of amendments to withdraw them both as a matter of discretion as well as for the sake of smooth passage of this Bill.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport) As a matter of chivalry also

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The time is very short. The arguments which have been brought forward by the Honourable Members who are opposed to this Bill are not new, we have been hearing these arguments right from the days of *suttee*. I am glad to see that he knows what value to put to these arguments. One thing I noticed and that was interesting that 111 were against and 90 for. I hope that Mr. Gole who brought this argument forward had read his 'Manu Smriti'. In the last chapter of it you will find that Manu says that the correctness of a view cannot be judged by the number of heads that you count and that very often you will find that the opinion that is in one head is perhaps more righteous than the opinions supported by 100 spheres or Goles.

So far as the argument of the sacramental character of the marriage is concerned, it is a very funny argument that has been brought forward repeatedly and I am prepared to meet it again. Wherever marriage laws are concerned, I do not think any Hindu can explain what really a sacrament is. I take it, it is a word which we have bodily taken and accepted from our British Judges as it was used in Christianity and in England. If marriage gives a status of a sacrament to a woman it also gives a status of a sacrament to a man and I take it that if the state of sacrament is the same for both, because mind you the ceremony is the same, I really cannot see how a man can marry four, five or six times, and even while his wife is living and when his wife is also dead whereas a woman who has the same sacrament and who should have the same religious right, on account of the sacrament cannot marry another, whether the husband is alive or dead. Therefore, I say, the less talk we hear in this House and in the opinions that I have read both on this Bill and the other Bill which will soon be coming before the Assembly, the less we hear about this

argument of a sacrament the better for all Hindus I have no objection to Varnashram Sanghas and other institutions bringing this argument about the sacrament. But Bar associations, leading practitioners, intelligent people who are supposed to know better, when they come forward and talk of Hindu marriage as a sacrament and that anything you suggest interferes with the sacrament, either they are deceiving themselves, or they do not understand or they have not studied it properly.

Again the argument is brought forward about codification. This argument is also an old one. It was on this argument that codification has come in. That social reform was steadily prevented in this House for six years. From 1940 to 1946 whenever I suggested it, not only the Members but the Law Member, said we cannot have piece-meal legislation. On this the legal profession at one time was very hot. They say you cannot do anything with piece-meal legislation. Let us have codification. And yet when you do give a code to the Hindu society, what is the result? Oh, this is uprooting the whole society. So if you suggest codification it is too much. If you suggest piece-meal legislation you say it is not good. You cannot progress. All I say is that in a case of a society of 300 million men it is impossible to get unanimity and it is impossible to get interests, not religious but vested interests,—I purposely say so—to see things and to give a unanimous opinion. What is the remedy then to improve a big population like this? It must be piece-meal legislation. If you have codification, nobody can be more pleased than I to have the whole matter changed. But as practical men, not as men merely practising in Courts, but as men who are dealing with the human element in the Legislature and the world, isn't it better that the crying evils and the innocent inhibitions should be removed and it does not prevent codification coming in. By all means let codification come in at the same time.

Another parrot cry with regard to this Bill my friend, Mr. Gole and others say we must wait for codification. Now will you exercise a little intelligence. When a measure is put forward and it has repercussions on the law of succession and adoption you say let codification come in. But where is the question of repercussions on this Bill with regard to succession and adoption? And yet intelligent lawyers, who should know better talk of codification. Even when codification comes in, let me warn my brethren that I have seen the fate of those Bills and legislative measures over which months and months . .

Mr. Krishna Chandra Saarma (Meerut Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) He is making a new case. It is not a reply.

Mr. Deputy President: He has got the right to reply.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I have known Bills over which months and months were taken and over which solicitors and draughtsmen were engaged, and yet could you produce a perfect measure? Take your Insurance Bill, the Income-tax Bill, the Motor Transport Bill. In spite of spending months and months you cannot produce a measure which will meet all the human wants. Therefore do not pin your faith to codification and then go to sleep for one thousand years! The law must keep pace with living society and as the society changes I do not care whether it is 100 years or 100 days, if new conditions arise, you have to modify your law.

So far as my friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's amendment is concerned, I am not prepared to accept it. Either the thing is good or it is not.

Mr. Deputy President: Will the Honourable Member let the amendments be put now?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Then I have finished. I am very thankful to the House for the support it has given and for the speakers who have supported this measure and I have not the least doubt that the House will support this healthy measure in the same way as the House has supported many of the other measures for the health of Hindu society.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration"

The motion was adopted

Mr. Deputy President: Clause 2

Mr. P. B. Gole: Sir, I move

"That sub clause (a) of clause 2 of the Bill be omitted"

Mr. Deputy President: The practice is that when an Honourable Member moves his amendment he makes his speech along with it

Mr. P. B. Gole: I thought you would move the amendment and then I would be called upon to speak. I want to point out that this clause is very faultily worded and it would give rise to many doubts. The clause reads "between Hindus belonging to the same *gotra* or *pravara*". I heard with attention the speech of the Honourable Mr. Rajagopalachariar and I would have certainly accepted his view, provided it was really a marriage between families of the same *gotra* living in Madras and Bombay or as between families in Madras and Northern India. But according to the wording of this clause 2 (a) it will be possible to marry in the same family

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: It must be otherwise valid

Mr. P. B. Gole: *Sapinda* relationship is not defined anywhere in this Bill

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadian) Sir, on a point of order, is such an amendment permissible? Because if clause 2 is omitted from this Bill there will be nothing left

Mr. Deputy President: He is not omitting the whole of clause 2 he only wants to omit sub-clause (a) of Clause 2

Mr. P. B. Gole: What I want to point out is that if this clause is passed as it is, marriage between cousins of the second, third or fourth degrees should be possible. *Sapinda* relationship has not been defined. Some authorities are of the opinion that *sapinda* relationship exists up to third degree and others up to the 5th and some others say up to the seventh degree. You will also know that beyond the *sapinda* relationship there is what is known as *sakulva*. If the Bill is passed with clause 2(a) as it stands marriage will be possible in the same family. I would certainly not have objected to this Bill if the marriage was expected to take place between families living apart, one at one end of the country and the other at the other end and having absolutely no connection. But this is really speaking over-doing the thing. The Bill as it stands gives also permission for marriage between persons in the same family and it is highly objectionable. Therefore I move that this clause as it is worded should be omitted.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved

"That sub clause (a) of Clause 2 of the Bill be omitted"

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I am afraid my Honourable friend is trying to beat a dead horse. After a lengthy speech of over an hour the argument has gone against him. The House has accepted the main principle. Sub-caste marriages are already valid. This only makes it clearer. The other important point is *sagotra* marriage and my friend finds that the House has accepted the principle. He wants to say that in the same family some difficulties may arise and what will the members of the family do. *Sapindas* of the 14th degree in the same family are not available nor seen in any part of the country. I am not aware of a single family for fourteen generations living together. The easiest device for them is if they want to effect a marriage after the seventh degree. Therefore it is utterly useless to raise this point once again. Having lost the main point let him not clutch at the straw.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That sub-clause (a) of Clause 2 of the Bill be omitted "

The motion was negatived

Mr. Deputy President: The next amendment is by Mr Madandhari Singh

Mr. Madandhari Singh (Bihar and Orissa Landholders) Sir, I move

"That in sub clause (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the words "*gotra or pravara*", the following be inserted, namely

'except dynasty of the parents of bridegroom and bride' "

In moving this amendment I would like to place before the House the position in my Province In my province the orthodox people are against marriages between *gotras* and *pravaras* I therefore wanted to express my views before but I could not get the time for it, as my friend Mr Sharma proposed closure In moving this amendment I want to make clear only one point, *viz* , that no marriage should be performed in the same line of the parents of the bridegroom and bride I move this amendment for the consideration of the House

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved

"That in sub clause (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the words "*gotra or pravara*", the following be inserted, namely

'except dynasty of the parents of bridegroom and bride' "

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, this is a very dangerous amendment *Gotra* and *pravara* are very well known to all Hindus They are accepted and need not be described But what is dynasty of parents of the bridegroom and bride? It is a new innovation We want to get rid of one and my Honourable friend is trying to bring in another I am against this amendment

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That in sub clause (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the words "*gotra or pravara*", the following be inserted, namely

'except dynasty of the parents of bridegroom and bride' "

The motion was negatived

Mr. Deputy President: The next one is by Pandit Balkrishna Sharma

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Sir, I beg to move

"That to clause 2 of the Bill, the following explanation be added

'Explanation The provisions of this section shall not affect any bar on the ground of consanguinity prescribed by law or custom in regard to Hindu marriages' "

I do not wish to take up any time of the House Some doubts were raised in regard to the provisions of this Bill, according to which Mr Gole thought that perhaps since *sagotra* marriages have now been permitted, therefore marriages might take place in the same family In order to guard against that this explanation is put in

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved

"That to clause 2 of the Bill, the following explanation be added

'Explanation The provisions of this section shall not affect any bar on the ground of consanguinity prescribed by law or custom in regard to Hindu marriages' "

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: With the permission of the House, I would like to accept this explanation, but I would like to clear up one point and it is this: it says the provisions of this section shall not affect any bar on the ground of consanguinity prescribed by law or custom in regard to Hindu marriages " After this afternoon's discussion, when I saw that within *sagotra*, even *sapindas* are included, as a layman I am frightened of these legal and technical words and I would like to be assured that this will not mean again undoing and bringing in *pravara* and *gotra* as measures of consanguinity. If the lawyers assure me, then I will accept the amendment.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I think I can give that assurance to the Mover of the Bill.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like to say a few words on this. With all respect to Rajaji, who has had greater experience both in the world and in law and practice, I am not sure whether this satisfies the intention in one part of our country consanguinity does not mean relation by blood within prohibited degrees. I think prohibited degrees are in some cases on account of relationship by blood, and in others, relationship on other grounds. Therefore I was anxious that the other amendment of my honourable friend Mr Venkatasubba Reddier might be adopted. But I would like to have some clarification in regard to this matter. Let it not throw wide open the gates for suspicion and doubt. All that is wanted by this amendment is that the prohibited degrees of marriage—7 on the paternal side and 5 on the mother's side—ought not to be interfered with. Marriages even among persons of the same *gotra*, if they are within these prohibited degrees, ought not to be allowed. I am not sure whether the word consanguinity will meet this situation.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: If I may thank Rajaji for his explanation—we did consider this in detail in the Select Committee, and the opinion of the then Law Member, Sir Asoka Roy, was that the clause might be left as it is without trying to add anything. I merely want to pass on this information—after a great deal of discussion with regard to these prohibited degrees and consanguinity and all that, we came to the conclusion that the advice of the Law Member that the clause may be left as it is, should be taken. In the circumstances, I should like Rajaji to consider and my friend Pandit Balkrishna Sharma to consider whether it is worth while adding this explanation, and whether it will not be better to leave the clause as it is, as it was decided by the Select Committee.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Since the House has agreed to pass the measure, as it emerged out of the Select Committee,—whatever may be the different views in the House they have now practically gone into cold storage—it ought to be the business of the House now to see that the Bill goes out in such a shape as to make it workable. The measure as it came out of Select Committee is perfectly clear in its own way. This proposed explanation will amount to putting in a wheel into a wheel and that will serve only one purpose, namely, the purpose of my friend Mr Gole, that the wheel will not revolve. I believe expert legal opinion ought to be avoided as far as possible outside the House, it should not be the merriment and feast of lawyers nor should it be the despair of the judges, there will be different interpretations, and though an important and experienced member like the Honourable Mr Rajagopalachari's attitude was quite clear, the explanation is practically putting a spoke in the wheel, to the detriment of the whole measure. Therefore it is worth while considering as to whether the Bill should not be kept as it is. Even those who do not agree with all the arguments of the sponsors of the Bill at least agree that the drafting of the Bill is very clear. There is no doubt it wanted to remove certain doubts, and how it wanted to remove doubts in the existing law was perfectly clearly worded, and in our anxiety to forestall certain arguments that might be made in course of the debate, we are practically entering into an arena of endless controversy which, I submit, the wisdom of this House ought to avoid by all means.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Just one request, Sir. It is now five minutes to five o'clock. I hope you will sit a little longer so that we may get the Bill through the House now.

Mr. Deputy President: I have no objection to sit a little longer, because I know the difficulty of non-official members who move non-official Bills. But I would request honourable members not to repeat arguments but to try and throw light on legal points only.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: In view of what has been said by Mr Sanyal, I think I should advise the Mover of the amendment to withdraw it. We have clarified it by the discussion we have had already. Although

there is enough in the language of the Bill as it stands to include what is intended in the amendment, in view of what was said by Mr. Gole I thought there was no harm whatever in adding the explanation. But since fear has seized the reformers, I advise the advancement may be withdrawn.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: I crave the permission of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

'That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.'

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: Clause 1

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not move my amendment in view of the enormous opinion in favour of the Bill immediately becoming law.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

'That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.'

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh, Sir, I move

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Mr. Deputy President. Motion moved.

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I am aware that honourable members are anxious to get away and my honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh is anxious to move his Bill. While welcoming this measure as it is merely an enabling measure and it is open to various communities to adopt it or not to adopt it—it does not force anybody to marry in the same *gotra* if he does not want it and therefore there is nothing like compulsion—but I would like that while we meet here and try to evolve a change suited to modern conditions, we need not, on either side, lay too much emphasis in respect of old days, on the one side, or on the other too much of abuse or, I should say, even insult, of the sacrament of marriage. My honourable friend may be a doctor of medicine and he may be able to cut my throat easily, but he cannot easily cow me down in the matter of law and in other matters. Lawyers certainly have got as much experience as my honourable friend has, with the respect to society in which they move, they have even greater opportunities of knowing whether it is a sacrament or not. I can tell him that so far as marriage in Hindu law is concerned it is a sacrament and is indissoluble. It continues not only in this world but also in the other (Interuption). My honourable friend may not believe in it, but it is not as if . . .

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh. I am only saying that it should be for both the sides.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Both sides of course must be there, but in the way in which you make inroads into our systems of law, you are practically dissolving it. You can dissolve it if you like and make the marriage for a number of months or years. Therefore it is no good trying to ridicule our ancient systems. Whenever there is need for change, have it. If my honourable friend wants to have some progressive changes made, this is not the way to approach the question. Why should you unnecessarily alienate the rest of the community which is prepared to go with you, and instead of helping them, you insult them? As far as my part of the country is concerned, there is really no need for this. I would therefore like to urge some caution on both sides—not merely on one side. Let us not ridicule our ancient institutions merely because on account of impact with western and other culture we do not see eye to eye with them. That is all I would like to say. Otherwise, I welcome the Bill.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I crave the indulgence of the House for just a few minutes. In this Bill the Government as such have not expressed their views. Of course one member of the Government has spoken and has given his opinion. In the course of the debate on this Bill, there was some talk

of concurrent legislation between the provinces and the Centre. My friend Mr. Ayyangar by an amendment which he has subsequently withdrawn has dragged in the question of provincial legislation. Mr. Gadgil gave him an effective reply by introducing the principle of normative legislation. I raise this question because Government should make up their mind in the matter of many more marriages that have become the burning problem of today. My good friend, the Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal and other friends from Bengal, both Hindus and Muslims, know that recently many marriages have been made and unmade involuntarily. The excitement of the day will subside but these problems will have to be solved. I would myself prefer such legislation to be brought forward at the Centre because it is only here that political parties and communities have combined together for carrying on Government and this Government extends to the whole country. Therefore the problems which have been raised recently or even today in Bengal by forcible conversions and forcible marriages will have to be settled by legislation and it ought to be the declared policy of this Government that it will take up the question of all-India legislation on a broad based scale in the immediate future.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, I thank the House.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 8th November, 1946.

**Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State
are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FRIDAY, 8th NOVEMBER, 1946

Vol. VII—No. 9

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 8th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR AND FUTURE LIABILITIES AS A RESULT OF BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENT

316 *Sardar Mangal Singh Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) what amounts have so far been paid to the Bank and the fund created as a result of the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements, and what would be the recurring liability for the future, and

(b) whether any Governor and the Executive Director and an alternate Director have been appointed, if so, who are they?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) \$8 million have been paid to the Bank \$72 million (in rupees) remain to be paid. A contingent liability of \$820 million will remain outstanding.

No payment has been made to the Fund beyond \$40,000 for administrative expenses which will count towards our quota. \$400 million have to be paid on demand of which about \$27½ million are payable in gold and the rest in rupees.

There is no recurring liability towards either institution.

(b) Yes, Sir. The appointments made are as follows:

International Monetary Fund —

Governor Sir Chintaman Deshmukh

Alternate Governor Mr N Sundaresan

Executive Director Mr J V Joshi

Alternate Director Dr B K Madan

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development —

Governor Sir Chintaman Deshmukh

Alternate Governor Mr N Sundaresan

Executive Director Mr N Sundaresan

Alternate Director Mr J V Joshi

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if there are any Indians on the staff of these organisations apart from Governors and Alternate Governors?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Government of India see to it that sufficient number of Indians are appointed on the staff of these organisations?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Some Indians are being appointed on the staff and I may assure the Honourable Member that it is always the effort of the Government of India to see as many Indians appointed on these International bodies as possible.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India will make a report about the number of people employed on the staff of these different International organisations to the next session of the Assembly?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: If the Honourable Member will put down a question to that effect, the Government will be willing to consider it.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS BY INDIA TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

317. *Sardar Mangal Singh - Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state.

(a) the names of international organisations together with the amount of subscriptions which India pays annually to every organisation, separately; and

(b) whether there is any recognised international organisation whose headquarters are in Asia, if so, where?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) A statement is placed on the table of the House

(b) Yes The Siam Rice Commission has its headquarters at Bangkok

PART I

Statement showing International Organisations of which India is a Member and to which India makes lump sum contributions

Serial No	Organisations	Amount payable	Value in rupees
			Rs
1	International Monetary Fund	U S \$ 400 million, of which \$ 40,000 has been paid in 1945-46 and the balance is payable when the fund begins exchange transactions shortly	132.8 crores.
2	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	U S \$ 400 million, of which \$ 40,000 has been paid in 1945-46 and \$ 7,960,000 in 1946-47. A further sum of \$ 72 million is payable on the following dates 25-11-1946 \$ 33 million 25 2 1947 \$ 20 " 26 5-1947 \$ 20 " The balance of \$ 330 million will be an unpaid reserve liability	132.8 crores.
3	U N R R A	Rs 8 crores (A further sum of Rs 2 crores, as India's Second Contribution, was voted by the Legislative Assembly during the last budget session. This will however, be paid only after a review of the position and consultation of the House)	8 crores.
4	United Nations Organisation	U S \$ 1,097,750 to the Working Capital Fund. (see also item (2) in part II).	36.44 lakhs.

PART II

Statement showing International Organisations of which India is a Member and which involve annual contributions

Serial No	Organisations	Amount payable per annum	Value in rupees
			Rs
1	League of Nations	£ 100 500 (1946-47) Final	14,20,000
2	United Nations Organisation	\$ 944,065 (U S)	31,31 000
3	Inter Governmental Relief Committee on Refugees, London	£ 2,700	36 000
4	International Meteorological Organisation, Switzerland	5,400 Swiss francs	4,300
5	Provisional International Civil Aviation Organisation, Montreal, Canada	65,333 Canadian dollars	1,05,990
6	International Commission for Air Navigation, Paris, France	90 000 French francs	2,500
7	International Telecommunication Union, Berne, Switzerland	18,196 Swiss francs	14,160
8	Universal Postal Union, Berne, Switzerland	12,850 Swiss francs	10,000
9	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Washington	U S \$ 2 12,500	7,05,500
10	Inter Allied Reparations Agency, Brussels	1,195 745,40 Belgian francs	90 287
11	Office International'd ' Hygiene Publique, Paris	£ 1,256 - 5 0	16,750
12	International Labour Office	Hitherto the contribution in respect of this Organisation has been included in the contribution to the League of Nations. The contribution to it as an independent Organisation has yet to be decided.	
13	International Technical Congress, Paris	Not yet known	
14	International Commission on High Dams, Paris	£ 90	1,200
15	International Emergency Food Council, Washington	No subscription is payable by India	
16	Siam Rice Commission, Bangkok	Not yet known	
17	International Railway Congress Association, Brussels	£ 25 .	333
18	United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Paris	Not yet known	

Serial No	Organisations	Amount payable per annum	Value in rupees
			Rs.
19	International Council of Scientific Unions	£ 40 per annum from 1947	533
20	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics	£ 200	2,667
21	International Union of Geography	Not yet known	
		Total	56,34,109

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if those persons who have been sent as delegates are permanent representatives to these organisations on behalf of India and whether they are making any reports quarterly or periodically to the Government? If so, will the Government kindly place those reports on the table of the House?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I would like to have notice of that question.

TRANSFER OF LAHORE MINT TO CALCUTTA

318. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lahore Mint will be transferred back to Calcutta, if so, why, and

(b) the expenditure on the building of the Mint and other expenses incurred in this connection at Lahore?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Yes, Sir, not only because the original scheme, which the war situation in 1942 interrupted, contemplated the establishment of a new and up-to-date Mint at Alipore (Calcutta) in place of the existing Calcutta Mint, but also because on a subsequent review of the position Government have been convinced of the undoubted administrative and financial advantages of the transfer.

(b) The expenditure on the building of the Lahore Mint and the other expenses incurred in connection therewith is of the order of Rs. 52 lakhs.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask why the Government will not consider the continuance of the Mint at Lahore and erecting a new one at Calcutta in view of the future needs of this country?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: This was a purely temporary arrangement and there are a number of administrative difficulties in having a Mint at Lahore. It has been considered, therefore, that it will be better and more convenient to have this Mint at Calcutta.

BILL FOR THE IMPOSITION IN INDIA OF DEATH DUTIES

319. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Government will proceed with the Bill for the imposition of Death Duties in India, and if so, whether the Bill will be taken up this session or the next?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The Bill has been circulated for opinion and a decision about the further action will be taken after Government have studied the opinions expressed on the Bill.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I ask if it is likely to be taken up during the next session?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I am unable to give a categorical reply to this question, but I can assure the Honourable Member that the earliest opportunity will be taken by the Government to arrive at a decision.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am asking whether, as a matter of principle, the Government has come to the decision that the death duties should be levied or is the Government still undecided on this matter?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The Government is waiting for opinions in this connection.

Seth Govind Das: Has the Government fixed any date by which opinions are expected to be received?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The Government had fixed a date and that was the 15th of August 1946, but there are still some important provinces which have not sent their opinions and they have been asked to expedite the matter.

(CERTIFICATE FROM CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE)

320. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the certificate to the effect that "so far as is known to me the applicant has not taken part in any movement subversive of law and order" is still required from the candidates for Government service, and

(b) if the words "subversive movement" include the various struggles for India's freedom including non-violent civil disobedience movements and the spontaneous movement of 1942?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No

(b) Does not arise

RECRUITMENT OF EUROPEANS AND BRITISHERS TO SERVICES IN INDIA

321. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the steps which the Interim Government have taken or propose to take to stop further recruitment of Europeans specially Britishers to services in India?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Interim Government have decided that

(a) appointment of non-Indians to civil posts under their administrative control should be made only in very exceptional cases and that also only on contract for the minimum period necessary,

(b) whenever it is proposed to appoint a non-Indian to a post, the concurrence of the Home Department is to be obtained and all such appointments are to be notified to the Cabinet office,

(c) whenever a Department proposes to employ a non-Indian in any post, it should simultaneously take suitable steps to train Indians to fill such post, and

(d) all Departments should examine cases of posts at present held by non-Indians and the desirability of taking steps to replace those officers on termination of their present appointments, and submit a report of such examination at an early date to the Home Department.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that the post of the Secretary of the Federal Public Services Commission has fallen vacant and it has so far been held by a non-Indian? It is in the desirability of appointing an Indian to that post?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not know about the vacancy, I want notice.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of offering inducement to non-Indians to vacate their seats so that they may go away?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: What inducements?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Gratuties and pensions so that they may go

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So far as the Central administrative services are concerned, the question has been taken up with the Secretary of State to settle the terms

Sardar Mangal Singh: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that this policy applies only to the civil side of the services and not to the military side?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It does not apply to the military side

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any European civil servants applied for premature retirement after the Interim Government came to office?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not know of any such application

Sjt. N V. Gadgil: They will be sympathetically considered

EXTENSION OF SERVICE TO I. C. S. MEN (BRITISH PERSONNEL)

322 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) the number of Indian Civil Service men (British personnel) who were given an extension of service or taken on special duty during the war, and are still continuing in service,

(b) their emoluments, the office they occupy and the work they are doing,

(c) the reason or reasons for their continuance, and

(d) the number of said officers still employed by Provincial Governments, provincewise?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Four British Indian Civil Service officers who were granted extension of service or re-employed after retirement during the war are still continuing in service. A statement regarding their emoluments, the offices they occupy the reasons for their continuance and the Government under whom they are employed is placed on the table

Serial No	Name of the officer	Pay	Office he occupies and the work he is doing	Reasons for continuance	Government under whom employed
1	Mr. A. J. Dash, C.I.E. I.C.S. (Retired and Re-employed)	Rs 3,000 p m	Chairman, Bengal Public Service Commission	* Appointed on 26th September 1942 on five years tenure in first instance	Government of Bengal
2	Sir Percy Marsh, C.S.I., C.I.E. I.C.S. (Retired and Re-employed)	2,500 plus pension p m	Chairman, Punjab Public Service Commission	* Appointed on 31st December 1942. Will continue until 13th October 1947	Government of the Punjab
3	Sir Alan Lloyd, C.S.I., C.I.E. I.C.S. (Retired and Re-employed)	2,250 p m	Establishment Officer to the Government of India and Examiner of Capital Issues Duties—Select on and appointment of officers of the rank of Under Secretary and above in the Government of India Secretariat, administration of the combined Finance and Commerce Department cadre, and of the General Administrative Reserve, and control of capital issues	Shortage of senior I.C.S. officers with requisite experience for holding the post. The present extension is due to expire on the 31st March 1947	Government of India
4	Sir Henry Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Granted an extension of service for one year from 24th November 1945)	4,000 p m 10,000 p m 4,000 p m 5,500 p m	* Adviser to the Governor of Bombay Governor of Madras (26th February 1946 to 6th May 1946) * Adviser to the Governor of Bombay Governor of Burma (11th June 1946 to 1st September 1946) Governor of Assam (4th September 1946 to end of November 1946)		Government of Bombay

* These appointments are made by the Governor of the Province concerned.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the Honourable Member's reply to the previous question and the general inclination of this Government to replace non-Indians by Indians, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of sending away these four persons, whoever they are and replace them by Indians as early as possible?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Arrangements for giving them facilities to go are being considered.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that all of them are over 60?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have not got the information here.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that I C S officers can continue up to 60 years of age ordinarily or 35 years of service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no knowledge about the rules.

ACCEPTABLE VOCABULARY OF HINDUSTANI

323. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state—

(a) the steps taken by Government to arrive at a generally acceptable vocabulary of Hindustani, and

(b) the results achieved so far?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by Sri Akbar Hydari to question No. 84 by Seth Govind Das on the 7th February 1946. The Standing Advisory Body, referred to in the Press Note mentioned in that reply, has submitted an interim report which is under my active consideration.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that since that question was asked, a vocabulary of a few words have been made and opinion has been expressed that in such small vocabulary, no Hindustani broadcast is possible?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: All that I know of is that a committee has been appointed to prepare a list of common words which could by agreement be used.

ACTIVITIES OF DR A JHA IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED INDIAN WAR ACADEMY

324. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the War Department please state if Government are aware of the activities of Dr A Jha in connection with the proposed Indian War Academy?

(b) What precisely is meant by the statement that all entries to the Academy will be considered on merit only?

(c) What steps are Government prepared to take to ensure that no discrimination will be made as regards that community which has supplied the majority of recruits to the Army in the last 150 years, to wit, the Muslims of India?

(d) What safeguards do Government propose to enforce with a view to ensuring that members of all communities get a fair opportunity of serving their country in the country's armed forces?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sri Dr Amarnath Jha is the Vice-Chairman of the N W A Working Committee, and undertook his recent tour at the request of H E the Commander-in-Chief, who is the Chairman of that Committee with a view to arousing interest in the proposed Academy and discussing the scheme with Provinces and States.

(b) to (d) The N W A Working Committee is to meet on the 11th of November 1946 to consider the draft report prepared by the Vice-Chairman. It is, therefore premature to discuss these questions. I can, however, state at once that Government will see that there is no discrimination against any community in the Armed Forces and that members of all communities will have a fair opportunity to serve in these Forces.

DECISION RE PROVINCE OF PANTH-PIPLODA

†325. *Shri Sri Prakasa Will the Honourable Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) if Government have taken any decision regarding the future of the Chief Commissioner's Province of Panth-Piploda, and

(b) if there is any map showing the exact location of this Province, and if so, whether he will be pleased to put a copy of it in the Library of the House?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. (a) No The future of Panth-Piploda will be a question for consideration by the Constituent Assembly

(b) A copy of the map has been placed in the Library of the House

PASSAGE TO STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDIES ABROAD

†326 *Shri Sri Prakasa : Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that a large number of students have been awarded scholarships for studies abroad, but have not been able to proceed for want of passage,

(b) the number of such students and the arrangements that are being made to expedite their departure,

(c) what arrangements, if any, Government have made for such students to be suitably engaged while they are awaiting their passage, and

(d) what stipends, if any, are being paid to them during this interval?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (a) and (b) The total number of scholars selected for studies abroad in 1945 and 1946 is 557 (339 Central, 218 Provincial), and 442 (187 Central, 255 Provincial) respectively. Of these 527 (321 Central, 206 Provincial) and 231 (121 Central, 110 Provincial) have been admitted and 315 (314 Central, 201 Provincial), and 164 (85 Central, 79 Provincial) respectively have sailed. The number of Government sponsored students who have been admitted to institutions and are at present awaiting passages is 79 (12 Central, 67 Provincial) in 1945 and 67 (Central, 31 Provincial), in 1946. Of these 79 Central Government scholars are 43 and Provincial Government scholars are 36. They are expected to sail soon. The position regarding passages particularly to the United States of America was very difficult last year. It has however considerably improved now. Difficulty of admission in suitable institutions abroad however continues.

(c) Special courses of training in India were arranged for Central Government Scholars selected last year who were not otherwise usefully employed and who could not be sent abroad for want of either passage or admission. In the current year, in order to avoid disappointment and hardship to the selected students it has been decided not to finalise the award of scholarships until arrangements are completed for admission and passage.

The Provincial Governments have been kept informed of the arrangements made by the Central Government in respect of the Central Scholars so that they could, if they so desired, make similar arrangements in respect of their own scholars.

(d) In the case of Central Scholars selected in 1945 who were in employment at the time of the selection but could not join their posts an *ad hoc* maintenance allowance equivalent to leave salary while on leave on average pay, subject to a minimum of Rs. 100 and a maximum of Rs. 500 p m was sanctioned. For others who held no employment a minimum maintenance allowance of Rs. 100 p m was sanctioned. If the stay in India exceeded 4 months, the minimum was raised to Rs. 150 p m. The Provincial Governments were apprised of these arrangements so that they could, if they so desired, make similar arrangements in respect of their own scholars.

† Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent

INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES ASSESSED TO INCOME-TAX ON INCOMES OVER ONE
CRORE OF RUPEES DURING 1945-46

†327. * **Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) the number of persons who have been assessed income-tax on incomes of one crore of rupees per year during the financial year 1945-46, and

(b) how many out of them are individuals, and how many are companies or joint families?

The Honourable Mr. Laquat Ali Khan: The information has been called for from the Commissioners of Income-tax and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

MEDICAL HELP FOR PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS

328. * **Mr. Maçandhari Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state 'it is a fact that many people in rural areas do not get any medical help during their illness'?

(b) If so, what are the proposals of Government to give proper medical aid to the people living in rural areas?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (i) Yes.

(b) The present plans for the extension of medical relief in the rural areas include the provisions of the following new institutions and appointments—

Madras—270 rural dispensaries, 150 village health centres and 15 group centres

Bombay—100 subsidised medical practitioners' centres in addition to 330 recently started

Bengal—500 new rural dispensaries

United Provinces—500 additional dispensaries and 600 additional subsidised medical practitioners, 74 travelling dispensaries and 55 travelling units for epidemic work

Punjab—375 rural dispensaries and 320 subsidised dispensaries

Bihar—32 rural health centres and one travelling dispensary in each sub-division

Central Provinces—40 new dispensaries and 100 subsidised medical practitioners

Assam—145 rural welfare centres to which dispensaries will be attached

Sind—40 new dispensaries

Orissa—100 new dispensaries

Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara—Health centres will be established on the Bhoir Committee plan. In the beginning three such centres will be opened in the rural areas in each Chief Commissioner's Province.

2. All the provincial plans are being reviewed by Provincial Governments in the light of the Bhoir Committee's report.

3. In addition to the schemes mentioned the Central and Provincial Governments have made provision in their plans for ambulance services, the improvement of hospitals and the training of staff which will directly or indirectly assist in the provision of medical relief in the rural areas.

(On the request of some Honourable Members Mr. President asked the Honourable Member to repeat his answer loudly.)

Seth Govind Das: Are all these dispensaries allopathic dispensaries?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Yes, those that I have read out. But some of the provincial governments have prepared schemes for the establishment of Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how many thousands of population are served by a dispensary in Madras presidency?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I will give the information to the Honourable Member

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the proposal of the Central Government in case of inadequacy of medical relief? Will the Government of India give subsidy to the provinces?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: The Central Government are assisting the Provincial Governments by a lump sum grants for development. They are not making any contribution particularly for the establishment of dispensaries in rural areas.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it by way of capital outlay or recurring grant?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: The Central Government are making grants which will be utilised by Provinces both for capital and recurring expenditure.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether there are any arrangements for indoor patients in any hospital in the rural areas of Delhi?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: No, Sir, not at present.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is no provision for maternity cases and so a great deal of hardship arises?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Yes, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: Sir, on a point of order the Chairman asked the Honourable Member to repeat his answer. When he did not do it I thought he was hard of hearing but now I find he can hear very well. May I know why he did not repeat the answer?

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

POLICY OF MILITARY TRAINING OF INDIAN GIRLS AND PARTICULARS RE INDIAN WOMEN IN I N A

329. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have in their possession full particulars about those Indian women who were in the Indian National Army of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose,

(b) whether Government have considered the question of utilising the training and experience of these women for military training of Indian girls, and

(c) the policy of Government with regard to giving facilities for military training for our women folk?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir. Government have not got full particulars.

(b) and (c) It is not at present the intention of Government to have women in Service Establishments, except as Nurses.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if Government have got some particulars if not full particulars?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Yes, Sir. We have got a few particulars about a small number of these women.

Miss Maniben Kara: Do I understand it is the policy of Government to make a differentiation between men and women in the services?

Mr. President: That does not arise out of this. Next question.

REPEAL OF PRESS LAWS

330. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the names and descriptions of those current legislative provisions (including ordinances) which go by the name of press laws,

(b) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the volume of dissent against such laws and to the wide demand, made through the

press and on the platform and floor of legislatures, asking for the repeal of such laws,

(c) the attitude of Government to such demand and criticism, and

(d) whether Government propose to constitute a committee for going into the matter, if so, when and in what manner?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, the Indian States (Protection Against Disaffection) Act, 1922 and the Indian Press (Emergency) Powers Act, 1931.

(b) to (d) I have already mentioned in my speech to the all-India Newspaper Editors' Conference that the Government would have no objection to setting up a Committee with a view to examining the repeal or modification of the Press Laws.

Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: When do Government intend to set up a committee like this?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I was waiting for the official Resolutions of the Conference being communicated to me. I received a letter only yesterday from the President and the matter is being considered.

Miss Maniben Kara: May I know if at the time of the press conference the Honourable Member did not request the editors to support the policy followed by the present Government because it was a national Government, and whether the Honourable Member does not think that such an assurance from the papers would interfere with the freedom of the press?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Honourable Member is misinformed. All that was said was that they should observe the conventions that they themselves had laid down and that liberty also enjoins a certain amount of corresponding responsibility.

Miss Maniben Kara: Do I understand that the papers which were represented in this editors' conference are those who always support the policy of Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir.

CENSUS OF LIBRARIES IN BRITISH INDIA

331 ***Mr. Madandhari Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken census of libraries in British India, if so, what is the number,

(b) the number of libraries in towns and in rural areas,

(c) who finance these institutions,

(d) whether Government are aware of the necessity of establishing libraries in rural areas, and

(e) if so, what are the proposals of Government for establishing libraries in rural areas?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a), (b) and (c) No census of libraries in British India has been taken by Government and so it is not possible to give the number or the other information asked for. An all-India census and the collection of figures even if successfully achieved will, I fear, give no real information about the very varying equipment and quality of the libraries scattered all over India. The figures obtained in such a census may even be very misleading. At a Library Conference held in Calcutta in September 1933 a resolution was adopted to bring out a directory of libraries in India and a very representative and competent Committee was formed. The Committee issued a questionnaire and took charge of the various areas allotted severally to the members. The response to the questionnaire and reminders that were sent was, they have regretfully admitted, not very encouraging. They however published a Directory with what data they collected. The number of libraries included in

the publication is 269, of which 17 are University Libraries, and 181 public libraries. There are many more libraries in the country beside those included in this Directory that was published eight years ago. The book is available at the office of the Indian Library Association, 6 Esplanade East, Calcutta.

(d) and (c) The establishment of rural libraries depends on availability of good and useful books in Indian languages as well as people ready and willing to use the books for self education. The Honourable Member putting the question is aware that Libraries is a Provincial subject and it is for the Provincial Governments to formulate proposals. It is presumed they will do so in connection with their development plans of social service.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that in most of the Indian languages there are no books now available on technical and scientific subjects? If so even if a library was set up how could it have books which do not exist? May I know, what steps, if any, Government will take in order to bring into existence in the Indian languages books on technical and scientific subjects which do not exist at present?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The difficulty pointed out by the Honourable Member is just what I referred to in the main answer. As regards steps for the production of new books the matter will be considered.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MINISTERS IN INTERIM GOVERNMENT

332. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that the salaries of the Ministers in the New Interim Government have been fixed at Rs. 1,500 per month?

(b) Is it a fact that Ministers are allowed House Allowance, Food Allowance, First Class travelling allowance, furniture allowance and also allowance for the entertainment of friends of Ministers?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No.

(b) Members of the Cabinet do not receive any House Allowance, Food Allowance, Furniture Allowance or Entertainment Allowance. The rules regulating the payment by Government of their expenses when travelling on duty are contained in Supplementary Rules 92, 94, 95, 97, 97A and 166 copies of which are in the Library.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: If the answer to (a) is in the negative, may I know what is the salary fixed now and before?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is a continuing thing, no change has been made.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: What is the amount?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not know, I am told it is Rs. 5,500.

CHARGES AGAINST EIGHT DELHI PAPERS FOR PUBLISHING SPEECH OF A MUSLIM LEAGUE LEADER

333. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state what the charge is against the eight Delhi Papers which have been served with notices because of the alleged publication of a speech of a Muslim League Leader?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Nine papers, on the publishers of which notices were served, appeared to the local authorities to have published matter falling within the mischief of clauses (a), (d), (f), (g) and (h) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that the speech referred to was made by one who is now a member of the Treasury Bench?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is so, Sir.

Miss Maniben Kars: Is it a fact that an order was passed by the District Magistrate to show cause why security should not be demanded from *Vanguard* for publishing news which was circulated by the Associated Press of America?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is so, because the District Magistrate thought that it was a breach of the provisions of the law.

Miss Maniben Kara: Then am I to understand that news circulated by the Associated Press of America cannot be taken up by newspapers? And will it not be an interference with the freedom of the press in this country?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Editors of the papers themselves knew that it offends against the conventions that they themselves laid down.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: When the speech was made by such a responsible person, was it not an irresponsible action on the part of the authorities?

Mr. President: Order, order. That is matter of opinion.

Miss Maniben Kara: May I know if in future news sent out by the Associated Press of America and the Associated Press of India will also pass through Government censorship?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that no further action was taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No further action was taken because the Press Advisory Committee advised in favour of dropping it.

FINANCING OF INDIA BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT FROM THE EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL FOR PURCHASE OF CAPITAL GOODS

334. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Government had financed India to pay 20 million dollars for each of the calendar years 1944, 1945 and 1946 from the Empire Dollar Pool, to enable India to purchase capital goods,

(b) if so, whether Government of India have issued licenses for the purchase of such capital goods with a view to using that amount, if not, whether Government propose to give reasons for not utilising the dollars for India's benefit,

(c) the number of licenses issued for purchase of capital goods during the three years referred to above and the amount of dollars utilised every year for the purpose, and

(d) whether British Government intend to release similar amounts from the Dollar Pool even after 1946?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (d) His Majesty's Government have earmarked a sum of 20 million dollars in respect of each of the calendar years 1944 and 1945 for meeting India's post-war requirements of capital goods from U. S. A. The question of allocation for 1946 and subsequent years has not yet been settled.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The second part, therefore, does not arise.

(c) I presume what the Honourable Member desires to know is the value of the sanctions issued for the import of capital goods, etc., which would count against this allocation. Such sanctions up to the end of August 1946 amount to about 38 million dollars. Figures regarding actual utilisation are not available for individual years but the total so far utilised comes to 1.73 million dollars, approximately.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the dollars accruing to India in the Dollar Pool amount to 114 crores of rupees worth of dollars, will Government take over this whole amount from the Dollar Pool and put an end to the Dollar Pool as soon as possible?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The matter is under the consideration of the Government, and I can assure the Honourable Member that the Government of India will take action as soon as possible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered that the grant of 20 million dollars to India in the post-war period by His Majesty's Government when several hundred dollars were due to India was not justice done to India, but it was a 'concession' while it was not even a concession?

Mr. President: What is the question?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered this matter and in the light of this will Government now put an end to the Dollar Pool now that the conditions under which the Dollar Pool was brought into existence have abated?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I think I have already answered that question that the matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. P. B. Gole: So far as the allotment for the year 1946 is concerned, will the Honourable Member say whether any allotment should be made for 1946?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I cannot give the Honourable Member a definite reply on the question, but orders from India have not been delayed on account of sufficient dollars not being available.

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I know whether any amount which was raised during the year 1944-45 will be available for purchase of capital goods?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, Sir.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member what is the attitude of the Government with regard to dollar licences which were issued years ago and have not been utilized? Are they prepared to withdraw those licences and utilize the dollars in other directions?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I would request the Honourable Member to put down a question for the Honourable the Commerce Member on the subject.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an editorial note in the *Statesman* of this morning in which the question has been raised as to whether dollars have been according to Government declaration, freely given for all purposes, and yet there is a continuing discontent and a continuing complaint that sufficient dollars have not been given, and the figures given by the Honourable Member himself of the non-utilization of the forty million dollars would go to indicate that dollars must have been denied to the public?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The attention of the Government has not yet been drawn to the note which the Honourable Member has referred to. Now that the Honourable Member has drawn the attention of the Government, it will be examined.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member whether any allotment has been made for 1946?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: No, Sir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member see that he gets at least twenty million?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I have already replied that allotment has been made for 1944 and 1945, and no allotment has been made for 1946 yet, but I hope that allotment would be made.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Finance Member see that this allocation of dollars is not confined to a few capitalists in this country, but that they are equitably distributed among the various provinces and a part of it shall go for the relief of the consumer and not reserved for capitalists?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: These dollars are for capital goods only.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Why so?

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Will not the Government agree by the terms of the Anglo-American loan which provides for winding up the dollar pool in July?

That is indirectly a notice to the other members that in any case dollars will be in the free market

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: That is so

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member where the balance of 10 million dollars minus what has already been drawn is held?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It is an amount earmarked in the Bank of England

ASSETS IN INDIA OF UNITED KINGDOM NATIONALS

335. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Government have got any estimate of the assets in India of the United Kingdom nationals?

(b) What steps have Government taken in order to have this estimate made?

(c) Have Government any particulars of recent sales by British nationals to Indians of their assets in India?

(d) Have Government any information as to the manner in which the money so realised has been converted from rupees into sterling and, if so, through whom and what is the total amount?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Government have no estimates other than those prepared by individual economists and private institutions

(b) It has not been possible for Government to carry out any such investigation so far. The question of the suitable means and methods of obtaining information in respect of these assets is under consideration

(c) Government have no information apart from what has been reported in the Press from time to time

(d) In the absence of any instructions on the conversion of rupees into sterling the requisite conversion of rupee proceeds of sales of foreign-owned assets must have taken place through the normal banking channels. No information is available as to the magnitude of the amounts involved

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the early negotiations for the settlement of the sterling balances, will not Government make an effort to get at some kind of rough estimate by consulting private economists before the occasion for these negotiations arises?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The Government will try to get as much voluntary information as it is possible

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: With reference to part (b) of the question and the Honourable the Finance Member's answer to the first supplementary question, namely that the Government will try to get as much information on a voluntary basis as possible, will the Honourable the Finance Member give an undertaking that the owners of British assets in this country will be consulted in any process by which it may be sought to estimate the total of those assets?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I said 'voluntary information' and surely those sources that will give this voluntary information will be authentic sources

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: I am not suggesting that the voluntary information would be unauthentic or inaccurate. I am asking the Honourable the Finance Member, as he appears to put the calculation of such an estimate on voluntary basis, will he give us an assurance that those who are the subject of the estimate will be consulted in the calculation of it?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, certainly

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that the voluntary estimates made by private economists of British assets in India vary from 2 million sterling to one thousand sterling?

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: And more

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: That is so

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Isn't it a fact that the predecessor of the Honourable the Finance Member said that he would make an estimate departmentally and that he would give us figures as to how the sterling balances are liquidated?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: All that my predecessor stated must be on record.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Isn't it a fact that the Department has proceeded to some extent in estimating the assets of British nationals in this country?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: On a voluntary basis the Department has started collecting information.

REPAYMENT OF STERLING BALANCES AND REPEAL OF SECTION 41 OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ACT

336. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Government have communicated to His Majesty's Government the desire of India to have the sterling balances repaid at an early date and, if so, what is the reply?

(b) What steps are Government taking to expedite the settlement of this question?

(c) Have Government taken any precautions to see that the volume of sterling balances does not increase?

(d) Have Government decided to repeal section 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act and, if so, when do Government propose to introduce the necessary legislation?

(e) Why are Government balances accumulated in London?

(f) Are Government free to convert them into Continental and other currencies?

(g) If they are blocked, who gives such information, on what terms, and when?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (c) of his starred question No. 172 on the 4th November 1946.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his starred question No. 87 on the 30th October.

(e) Government balances are held by the Reserve Bank in deposit and it depends on the transactions of the Bank and the relative demand for rupees and sterling how the balances of the Bank are held.

(f) Yes, in accordance with the common policy followed in the sterling area is explained in the Press Note issued by the Finance Department on October 7 1946.

(g) In view of the answer to part (f), this part of the question does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to the repeal of Section 41, have Government considered the desirability of implementing their own assurance on the floor of this House by the predecessor of the Honourable the Finance Member that this particular section, which compels India to give rupees for sterling at *lib*, will be repealed or at all events its operation would be suspended.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, the matter is under consideration.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I inform the Honourable Member that the question is not so simple as it is made out to be, as I am definitely opposed to any change in Section 41.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I agree with the Honourable Member that the question is not so simple!

POSITION OF INDIA IN THE MATTER OF DOLLARS AND HARD CURRENCIES

337. *Mr. Manu Subedar : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the latest figure of sterling balances belonging to the Reserve Bank and how does it compare with the figure for the same date during the last five years ?

(b) Have the Government of India made any demand to terminate the Dollar Pool ? If so, in what terms and what has been the reply ?

(c) Are Government aware of the popular feeling against the Dollar Pool, because of the belief that it has involved the diversion of dollars accrued to India to other uses ?

(d) Are Government aware that there is much resentment in the country against the Dollar Pool ?

(e) What is the amount of payment received from the Dollar Pool for the purchase of food during the current year ?

(f) What is exactly the present position of India in the matter of dollars and hard currencies and what are the figures during each of the last few years since the Dollar Pool was instituted ?

The Honourable Mr Liaquat Ali Khan. (a) The relative figures of the sterling holdings of the Reserve Bank as on the 20th October 1946, which is the latest date for which information is available and on corresponding dates in the preceding five years are, in round figures, as follows —

	Rs
25th October 1946	1,631 crores
26th October 1945	1,382 „
27th October 1944	1,109 „
29th October 1943	815 „
23rd October 1942	413 „
24th October 1941	216 „

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government are aware of the feelings in the country against the pooling arrangement. Government have tried to clear, in the Press Note issued on the 7th October 1946, certain mis-apprehensions which have given rise to these feelings.

(e) Figures of actual dollar disbursements for the purchase of food are not readily available in view of the considerable time lag in the receipt of information from London where all such transactions are settled. However, the estimated exchange liability based on allocations made by the International Emergency Food Council and contracts entered into within the dollar area during the year 1946-47 is as follows —

	Rs
Food grains	34.25 crores
Other foodstuffs	4.69 „
Total	38.94 crores

(f) The position has been explained in the recent Press Note on the subject issued on the 7th October, 1946, of which I lay a copy on the table.

I also lay on the table of the House a statement showing India's earnings and expenditure of hard and difficult currencies during each of the years since the pooling arrangement was instituted.

Press Note

INDIA'S DOLLAR EARNINGS AND EXPENDITURE POSITION EXPLAINED LIBERALISATION OF IMPORT CONTROL

As there appear to be considerable misgivings in the public mind about such matters as India's earnings and expenditure of dollars, the Empire Dollar Pool and the Postwar Dollar Fund Government consider it desirable to explain the main facts in this regard to the public.

EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL

It was customary before the war for a large number of countries (generally referred to as the 'sterling bloc') to hold all or almost all their foreign exchange balances in London in the form of sterling. Sterling was then freely convertible into other currencies and therefore countries which held sterling balances could convert them at will into any currency which they happened to need for fulfilling their international obligations. With the outbreak of the war and the increasing difficulty thereby caused in securing the convertibility of sterling, this system assumed a degree of rigidity which had not been previously contemplated. Those members of the 'sterling bloc' who continued to be members of what is now known as the "sterling area" forewent their right to hold foreign exchange in their own custody and agreed to impose restrictions on the expenditure of foreign exchange in order to ensure that the limited resources of the sterling area of foreign currencies were utilised to the best advantage in the prosecution of the war. The whole of the sterling area's holdings of foreign exchange were held in one pool in the custody of the Bank of England and the British Treasury. As the United States dollar was the most important foreign currency in this Pool this whole arrangement came to be known as the Empire Dollar Pool instead of the Sterling Area Pool of Foreign Exchange which more correctly describes it.

In the working of the Empire Dollar Pool of the individual countries of the sterling area were given no specific allotments of the various foreign currencies which they were entitled to spend. The method by which expenditure was restricted was that the countries concerned agreed not to spend foreign exchange unless the demand for which it was required was essential and could not be satisfied within the sterling area. The test of essentiality varied in strictness from time to time as the volume of the Pool increased or decreased and in the conclusion of the war and for a considerable period before it the test was whether a particular demand was necessary for the prosecution of the war or for the maintenance of the civil economy at a wartime level. The member country itself has always been the judge of the essentiality of its own requirements and when it has certified that a particular requirement is essential and its Exchange Control has granted the necessary full permission the Pool has never questioned the decision taken. With the end of the war the definition of essentiality applicable till then lost its meaning and the Government of India in much more liberal now in the classification of requirement is essential than they have been in the past.

The Government of India have kept an account of India's earnings and expenditure of hard currencies some figures about which were published in the Finance Member's Budget speech last February. Since the beginning of the War up to the 31st March, 1946, India earned Rs. 405 crores worth of U.S.A. dollar and spent Rs. 240 crores having a net surplus of Rs. 165 crores. Against this has to be set off the fact that India spent more than she earned, to the extent of Rs. 41* crores, of other hard currencies, namely those of Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal. India's net contribution to the Pool has therefore been about Rs. 114 crores till the close of the year 1945-46. During the quarter ending June 1946 for which preliminary figures are now available there has been a substantial net drawal by India on the Pool mainly on account of food imports and other payments on Government account. These figures must not however, be taken as our "share" in the Dollar Pool for what we can spend is, strictly speaking not related to nor limited by what we have contributed.

POST WAR DOLLAR FUND

The public are aware that there is a fund known as the Post War Dollar Fund to which the Pool has contributed \$20 million for the year 1944. In the year 1943-44 His Majesty's Government agreed in view of our large dollar contributions to the Empire Dollar Pool and of our willingness to agree to give reciprocal aid to the United States to place at our disposal a sum of \$20 million in a separate fund to be utilised after the conclusion of hostilities with Japan for restocking and capital expenditure in the U.S.A. All expenditure for these purposes was to be met from the Fund and not till this Fund was exhausted were we to ask for dollars from the Pool for the financing of such expenditure. This figure of \$20 million was a percentage of our dollar earnings on trade account in the year 1944 and H. M. G. agreed that they would credit the Fund with a similar sum, up to a maximum of \$20 million for the year 1945 if our dollar earnings on the same basis for that year were of the same order as for the year 1944. In respect of 1945 H. M. G. have just intimated

* This figure was a misprint for Rs. 51 crores

an allocation of \$20 million. It is generally believed that this Fund represents the total resources in U S dollars which India possesses for the purchase of capital goods. Such a belief is however, erroneous. The limit of our purchases is not necessarily the amount in the Fund for we have the right to draw on the Pool for all capital goods the import of which we regard as legitimate. As against the \$20 million allotment to the Fund for 1944 and in anticipation of further allotment the Government of India have issued sanctions for the import of capital goods, the purchase of ships and for other industrial purposes upto \$28 million.

IMPORT POLICY

Recent criticisms about the import control policy of Government have been based on two grounds, firstly, that the administrative machinery for the grant of import licences was slow and inefficient and secondly, that the strictness with which exchange control was administered made it very difficult for importers both of capital and of other goods to import them from outside the sterling area. With the altered conditions brought about by the termination of War, the Government of India have recently made a number of changes in the administration of import control with the result they hope, that the procedure for obtaining import licences has been very considerably simplified and shortened. They have also adopted the policy of removing as many items as possible from the list of controlled items and of placing them on the Open General Licence for the sterling area. Other items have been placed on the Universal Open General Licence which means that these items may be imported freely from any source whether within or outside the sterling area. Items which can thus be decontrolled are continually under review and the list is gradually being increased.

The Government of India have also relaxed substantially the rigidity of exchange control and the two tests of essentiality and non-availability are now applied with more flexibility. Requirements are now held to be essential if they are necessary for the maintenance and development of the national economy or the maintenance and development of the standard of living and non-availability is determined with due reference to the quality, price and period of delivery of comparable articles in the sterling area. Further, the burden of proving non-availability has been shifted to Government from the importer so that it is now for Government to satisfy itself by its own enquiries whether goods required to be imported from outside the sterling area are available within or not instead of as heretofore for the importer to prove that they were not so available. Another modification that has been introduced is that the various currencies of the world have been graded in order of their difficulty and the tests of essentiality and non-availability are applied to imports with a decreasing degree of strictness in accordance with the comparative easiness of the currency concerned. With these modifications of policy and procedure it is expected that currency considerations will no longer hinder the rapid development of industry in India.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, October 7, 1946

Statement showing India's earnings and expenditure of hard and difficult currencies

Year April—March	Earnings	Expenditure	Net
1939-40 (Sept—March)	+4180	-1719	+2461
1940-41	+3909	-4333	-424
1941-42	+6254	-4952	+1302
1942-43	+4418	-4685	-267
1943-44	+7665	-4118	+3547
1944-45	+9949	-6631	+3318
1945-46	+8851	-7379	+1472
Total	+45226	-33817	+11409

NOTE—All figures in lakhs of rupees.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that this is called the Empire Dollar Pool, a word against which we have the strongest objection, and in view of the fact that the circumstances justifying the institution of this pool have not abated, will not Government respect public feeling and also India's interests, in pressing for an early termination of this dollar pool?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, there are certain practical difficulties, but as I have already said, this is a matter which is receiving careful attention of the Government of India.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Irrespective of the fact whether one likes the word "Empire" or not, there is a sterling pool all the same and this question is not so simple. We have to decide whether rupee should continue to be linked with the sterling or not. That is the first issue before we abolish this sterling pool altogether.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat his question?

Mr. President: There is no question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, Sir, if from any of the countries in the Empire or even from the United Kingdom the Honourable the Finance Member has received any objection to the closing of the dollar pool?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: We are not concerned with other countries. We are only concerned with the interests of India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the difficulty and why should it take time to close this dollar pool so far as India is concerned?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It is rather a complicated business and if my friend will take the trouble of coming to my room I shall try and explain it to him. It cannot be explained in answer to a question like this.

NUMBER OF INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS IN EMPLOYMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AFTER TERMINATION OF NORMAL PERIOD OF SERVICE

338. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many members of the Civil Service are in the employment of Government after the termination of their normal period of service?

(b) What are their names, present emoluments and functions?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when complete.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that this House in the last Budget Session expressed itself against the employment of superannuated persons?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I can say this that there are a large number of vacancies and recruitment has stopped for a long time. Therefore, we have asked some of them against their will to continue. Provinces are also free to employ them. If they want to do so, we cannot stop them. In some cases Provinces have employed them.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Do I understand the Honourable Member to mean that the Government policy is to employ superannuated persons only when there is a necessity?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Only when it is absolutely necessary they are employed.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Isn't the Government aware that a number of persons who are subordinates now can rise to these places and as such they have a legitimate complaint that they have been blocked by the superannuated men?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Except in very exceptional cases, no such superannuated men are employed.

IMPORT OF SALT FROM OUTSIDE AND ABOLITION OF SALT DUTY

339. *Mr. Manu Subedar : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Government have reached any decision with regard to the abolition of the salt duty ?

(b) How much salt is produced in India and how much of it is through Government agency ?

(c) How much salt is imported from outside ?

(d) Have Government examined the position whether the whole requirement of India cannot be produced here and, if so, have Government found any reasons why the total quantity could not be produced in India and why even something more cannot be produced in India for supply to Burma and other countries ?

(e) What are the conclusions to which Government have reached with regard to Indian self-sufficiency in salt and the need to supply for the public relatively clean salt produced under controlled conditions ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Shri Sri Prakasa's Question No. 176 and Mr. Sanyal's Question No. 189 on the 11th November 1946.

(b) On an average annually about 600 lakhs mounds of which about 200 lakhs mounds is through Government agency.

(c) About 50 lakhs mounds on the average during the last five years.

(d) and (e) These matters are under examination and no final conclusions have yet been reached.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state when that promised statement is likely to be given ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : I said in reply to the question to which I have referred that I hope to make a statement shortly.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : May I know from the Honourable Member if the duty is abolished, whether the benefit will go directly to the consumer ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : That is also one of the questions which is being examined.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Will Government take specific steps in order to ensure that the salt which will be available to the public, particularly the poorer sections of it, will be good pure white salt and will not be the mixed muddy dirty brack which is at present available to the poor in most parts of the country ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : So at this very moment in India the Central Government is studying the question of the manufacture of salt in England and America.

MAINTENANCE OF RANCHI MENTAL HOSPITAL EXCLUSIVELY FOR EUROPEANS

340. *Seth Govind Das : Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a mental hospital is maintained by Government exclusively for Europeans at Ranchi

(b) if so, the reasons for spending the Indian taxpayers' money for giving this facility to Europeans exclusively, and

(c) whether Government propose to open this hospital for persons belonging to all nationalities and communities and make it a hospital for advanced cases of mental diseases and attach a research section to it ?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) There is a Mental Hospital for European patients at Ranchi maintained by a Board of Trustees constituted under the Ranchi Mental Hospital Act 1922. Indian patients accustomed to the European mode of living are also admitted up to a maximum of ten at any one time.

(b) No expenditure on the maintenance of the hospital is incurred from Central Revenues. The cost is met from the contributions by the Provincial

Governments who send patients to the Hospital and from fees from paying patients

(c) The matter will be considered in consultation with the Board of Trustees
Seth Govind Das: May I know from the Honourable Member why the number of Indians who are admitted in that hospital is only ten?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: When the figure was fixed some years ago it was considered at that time that there would probably be insufficient accommodation for more patients, taking into account the provision of accommodation for European patients for whom the hospital was primarily intended

Seth Govind Das: May I know why only such Indian patients are admitted in the hospital who are accustomed to the European mode of living?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I understand that the accommodation provided is in accordance with European standards of living

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: What is the total number of beds in this hospital?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: The maximum number of patients at present is 250

Seth Govind Das: When the total number is as much as 250 will Government consider the advisability of increasing the number of Indian patients who want admission into that hospital?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: As I said, the whole matter is being considered

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: May I know what the Honourable Member means by European standard of living for lunatics?

(No answer was given)

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is mental disorder more common in this country amongst the Europeans?

(No answer was given)

RESERVATION OF VACANCIES IN CIVIL SERVICE FOR J. N. A. PERSONNEL

341 *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:
 (a) whether any vacancies in the Civil Services are reserved for 'war service' candidates even by the present Government,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to abolish all such reservations and throw open the recruitment to all qualified persons, with or without 'war service' and

(c) whether Government propose to reserve 50 per cent of vacancies in the Civil Services for Indian National Army personnel drawn from the army or otherwise and for those who were incarcerated or went underground in connection with the Indian National Resistance Movement of August 1942?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c) Previous orders reserving all or a fixed percentage of vacancies upto the 31st December 1945 in the various services still stand but the question whether and, if so, to what extent they should be modified is engaging my attention. The present position is, however, that even after all the suitable war service candidates are absorbed in the posts for which they have been selected or in the case of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police the recruitment to which has been stopped, in equivalent posts, a large number of vacancies would still be available to candidates from other sources of supply including those mentioned by the Honourable Member. No fixed percentage of vacancies arising from 1946 onwards have been reserved in favour of 'war service' candidates but the orders issued by the previous Government will have the effect of allocating a proportion of such vacancies in Superior Services to war service candidates. As I have already said I am reviewing the whole question.

Seth Govind Das: As the Honourable Member has just said, in reviewing the whole question, will he see that only such persons are taken in these vacancies (persons even with war service) who are not non-Indians?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes

RECRUITMENT TO INDIAN ARMED FORCES.

342. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state

(a) whether it is a fact that a theory of martial and non-martial races is followed for purposes of recruitment to the Indian Armed Forces,

(b) whether it is a fact that at present the recruitment to the Indian armed forces is chiefly confined to a few provinces like the Punjab, Madras, etc., and to a few communities like Marathas, Gurkhas, Jats, Rajputs, Pathans etc., and

(c) if so, whether the new Interim National Government propose to revise their policy and fix the quotas of different provinces to the recruitment in the armed forces, on the basis of their proportionate population strength?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) In the past recruiting to the Indian Armed Forces was mainly confined to what in those days were termed martial classes

This management was, however, completely changed during the war of 1939-1945 and personnel were enlisted from all classes and from all provinces

(b) The class composition of the post-war army was planned in the early months of 1946 in accordance with this new policy of making the representation of all classes as broad as possible. Recruiting is now being carried out on this principle

(c) Government have not yet determined the size of the armed forces in the future. They do not however propose to fix quotas for provinces on the basis of population

Seth Govind Das: According to the present arrangements may I know whether there will be any kind of quota to be taken from the provinces or no quota at all?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The intention is that there should be no fixed quota for any particular province but care would be taken to see that all provinces and all classes get equal opportunities for enlistment in the armed forces of the country

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Honorable Member will assure the House that care will be taken to see that the Indian armed forces constitute a first class and efficient fighting machine and that no other consideration will prevail with the Government of India?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I hope and trust that this House will support the Government in maintaining the Indian army at the highest pitch of efficiency which it had reached during the war and for which it won laurels throughout the world

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the efficiency of the proposed army which Sardar Mangal Singh contemplates depends upon the education and training which is given to those soldiers and not upon any community or class?

Mr. President: That is a matter of opinion

NATIONALISATION OF INDIAN ARMED FORCES

343 *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state

(a) the steps taken for nationalising the Indian armed forces and for breaking its exclusiveness from the general public and the rural masses in particular, and

(b) the development and extension programme of the various arms of the Indian armed forces to meet India's defensive and offensive requirements?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I venture to suggest that this is not really a proper subject for a question but for a resolution. I would not attempt to answer on the lines suggested to do so would not be doing justice to the subject. I would however, say

(a) That Government's plans for the nationalisation of the armed forces will be made known very shortly. In the last three years every effort has been made to interest the general public in the armed forces and great progress has been made in this direction. These efforts are continuing and will be

intensified. There is no exclusiveness in this connection and the more interest the public take in the armed forces, the more pleased will the Government be.

(b) As regards the development of the armed forces to meet India's defence requirements, this is the constant concern of the Defence Department and at present I am glad to say that India has no offensive requirements.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

344. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the public criticism against the present practice of appointing Honorary Magistrates in the Centrally Administered Areas of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara from amongst the titled gentry not possessing sufficient knowledge of law? If so, do Government propose to abolish this system altogether in the interests of administration of justice? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : My enquiries show that in Ajmer-Merwara less than 40 per cent of the Honorary Magistrates are titled persons. In Delhi out of 20 Honorary Magistrates the number of titled persons is eleven. Apparently the local authorities were satisfied about the legal knowledge of these persons when the appointments were made but I am prepared to ask the Chief Commissioners particularly to bear in mind the desirability of appointing persons with sufficient knowledge of law, when vacancies occur on the expiry of the existing appointments.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta : Is the Honourable Member aware that for these posts of Honorary Magistrates persons are appointed really for the loyal service they had rendered in the past and then legal knowledge or then education has not so far been the criterion for their selection?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : I have already answered that question. I know that no disloyal man is appointed as an Honorary Magistrate.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri : Will the present Government propose to abolish the system of appointing Honorary Magistrates throughout India as has been proposed in some of the provinces already?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : In the question under reply we are asked to consider the matter of the appointment of Honorary Magistrates in the Centrally Administered areas only and not in the whole of India.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena : Is the Honourable Member aware that the loyalty of these Honorary Magistrates was to the old order which has come to an end and not to the existing order?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : Evidently it has not come to an end yet.

Seth Govind Das : Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of abolishing these Honorary Magistrates' jobs as has been done in various provinces in the central areas also?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : As far as I am aware, it has not been done in the autonomous-administered provinces, the centrally administered areas are not expected to go ahead of those provinces.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DISSATISFACTION AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHIEF COMMISSIONERS

345. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava : (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the dissatisfaction among the public against the administration of Chief Commissioners in the Centrally Administered Areas?

(b) Do Government propose, under these circumstances, to set up elected Advisory Councils whose advice may be binding on and necessary for Chief Commissioners on all important administrative questions? If so, when?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) The Government of India have received representations expressing dissatisfaction on the grounds indicated.

(b) I have already initiated proposals for establishing Advisory Councils and hope to finalize them at an early date.

FUTURE RECRUITMENT TO SERVICES IN AJMER-MERWARA

346. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if Government propose to frame rules for the future recruitment to Government services in Ajmer-Merwara, and to set up a representative public Committee to make selections for such recruitment ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Yes. Government have already initiated a proposal to frame recruitment rules which will cover not only the larger Central services but also the small services and isolated and newly created posts. These will apply to Ajmer-Merwara when approved.

It is not suitable to associate a representative public Committee with selection for recruitment which in appropriate cases will be made in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission.

LACK OF HEAD RESTS ON NEW DELHI ROADS

347 *Shri Sri Prakasa : Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that men and women workers carrying loads on their heads, are greatly inconvenienced from lack of head-rests on the roads of New Delhi and

(b) if he proposes to take steps to get these constructed in large numbers at suitable places ?

Mr S H Y Oulsnam : (a) Government have no information.

(b) The suggestion will be communicated to the New Delhi Municipal Committee for such action as may be found necessary.

PAY OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS APPOINTED AFTER 4TH AUGUST, 1931, TO POSTS ON NEW SCALES OF PAY AND THEIR ELIGIBILITY ON PROMOTION TO SCALES OF PAY OF HIGHER POSTS

348. *Mr. Tamuzuddin Khan : Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether Government servants who have been appointed after the 4th August, 1931, to posts carrying new scales of pay are eligible to get on promotion the present scales of pay of higher posts for which new scales of pay have not yet been determined ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : The crucial date for determining whether a Central Government servant is entitled to old or new scales of pay is the 15th July 1931. Individuals appointed after that date are termed 'new entrants' and are eligible both on initial appointment and promotion only for the new scales of pay. New scales of pay have been determined by the Government of India for the majority of posts, but in cases where this has not been done the rates of pay for new entrants will be fixed by Government.

UNQUALIFIED INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN SIND

349 *Seth Sukhdev : Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the number of Income-Tax and Assistant Income-Tax Officers in Sind,

(b) the number of Hindus, Muslims and others, separately,

(c) how many of these officers have not passed the qualifying examination for Income Tax Officer's post,

(d) why non-qualified men are given such responsible work, and

(e) whether it is a fact that when senior clerks and others do not pass the qualifying test for then cadre they are reverted ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : (a) There are 21 Income-tax Officers in Sind. There is no such grade as Assistant Income-tax Officer.

(b) Hindus	8
Muslims	10
Others	3

(c) Of these nine have not yet passed all the subjects in the departmental examination by the higher standard, as normally required.

(d) The reason is that fully qualified men are not yet available in requisite numbers and it is not feasible to leave the posts unfilled as that would lead to accumulation of arrears.

(e) Ordinarily that is the position, but when pressure of work demands it, those that have not passed the qualifying test are allowed to officiate as upper division clerks.

VICTIMISATION OF AND WRONGFUL REMOVAL FROM SERVICE OF AN INCOME TAX OFFICER IN BIHAR

350. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan - Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that several prominent members of the Bihar Legislature have drawn the attention of the Government of India to the victimisation of an Income Tax Officer of Bihar; if so, what action has been taken on their complaints or representations;

(b) if it is also a fact that a competent Court of Justice has also held that the said Income Tax Officer was wrongfully removed from service and that he was not given adequate opportunity to defend himself as provided by the Civil Service rules;

(c) if it is further a fact that the judgment of the Court reveals that a manufactured and extra judicial letter was placed on the record while forwarding the same to the Federal Public Service Commission; if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken against those responsible for the act; and

(d) whether Government propose to make an inquiry into this matter?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan - (a) Representations have been received from some Members of the Bihar Legislature regarding an Income-tax Officer of Bihar who was dismissed from Government service sometime ago. They have been informed that a case filed by the officer in court is at present *sub judice*, but that the whole matter will receive the careful consideration of Government as soon as the case ceases to be *sub judice*.

(b) The court held that the requirements of Rule 55 of the Civil Service Classification Control and Appeal rules and section 240(b) of the Government of India Act were not strictly adhered to in the proceedings conducted against the Income tax Officer.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(d) Government will take appropriate action in due course when the matter is further considered as indicated in my answer to part (i).

EXPENDITURE ON HARAPPA EXCAVATIONS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

351. *Makhdoom Ali-Haj Syed Sher Shah Jeelani. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state what was the total amount spent on Harappa Excavations by the Director General of Archaeology during the year 1946?

(b) What was the actual amount spent for digging the site?

(c) Do Government propose to place on the table of the House a statement in tabular form showing the expenditure incurred in this connection including the digging, purchase of tools and plant, conveyance, upkeep of camp, employment of temporary and workcharged staff including draftsmen, surveyors, chaukidars, bistis and sweepers?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari - (a) The total amount spent on Harappa Excavations during 1946 was Rs 81,497.

(b) The actual amount spent for digging the site amounted to Rs 22,428.

(c) A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table of the House.

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	Rs
(1) Digging	22,423
(2) Purchase of Tools and Plant	1,485
(3) Conveyance (including transfer of camp from Taxila)	1,593
(4) Upkeep of Camp including 31 University students	2,744
(5) Work-charged staff (including student supervisors)	1,390
(6) Temporary staff	825

EFFECT ON INDIAN FINANCES BY THE ABOLITION OF SALT TAX

352. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if Government propose to introduce legislation at an early date for the removal of the Salt Tax in all the Provinces of India ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the appointment of a Committee of experts to examine the effects of the removal of the Salt Tax upon the Finances of the country in the present financial stringency ?

(c) Are Government aware of the remarks of the distinguished Indian Economist Professor Brij Naran, who has opposed the removal of the Salt Tax ?

(d) What is the average consumption of salt per head per annum, and "if salt were made as free as the air" how many pies per head would be saved by the poor of India ?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Shri Sri Prakasa's question No. 176 and Mr. Sarwal's question No. 189 on the 4th November.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) The *per capita* consumption of salt is about 12½ lbs. (6 to 7 seers).

(ii) I can answer only in so far as the duty is concerned and not in regard to the cost of production, transport, storage, etc., if any. At the present rate of duty, *viz.*, Rs. 1/9/0 per maund the incidence is about 0/3/0 per annum or 8½ pies per head per month, and this would be the maximum saving.

RESOLUTION RE RELEASE OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MEN AND
POLITICAL PRISONERS—*contd.*

Mr. President: The next item is further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Pandit Govind Malaviya on Monday the 4th February, 1946 and not concluded on the 1st April 1946 —

"In view of the universal expression of public opinion throughout the country in the matter, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to give up the trials of the officers of the Indian National Army and to release immediately all men and officers of the Indian National Army as well as all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment."

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) : Sir, as the Honourable Mover of the Resolution is unavoidably absent, I would with your permission like to move

"That further discussion of this Resolution be adjourned to the next session."

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has stated that as the Honourable Mover of the Resolution is not present here today, he moves that further discussion of this Resolution be adjourned to the next session.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Home Member) : I support the motion.

Mr. President: The question is

"That further discussion of this Resolution be adjourned to the next session."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* THE RUNNING OF CIVIL AVIATION AS A STATE DEPARTMENT

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab Sikhi) Sir, I beg to move

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that Civil Aviation be run as a State Department like the State Railways and be not handed over to the private enterprise."

In moving this resolution and speaking on it, I am very well aware that I am probably wounding the susceptibilities of several vested interests and their supporters, but I will take jolly good care not to say anything which would be likely to wound their susceptibilities. I would like to say also that I do not intend to embarrass the government which have already sufficient headaches about other matters. But the subject of this resolution was so urgent and important that I wanted that before the government took any further steps in that direction, the House should have an opportunity to express their views. I was provoked into sending in this resolution by the speech of Mr. Ali Zaheer when he was a Member of the Government of India, in which he used expressions which would strike at the very root of nationalisation of this industry or of any other industry. In that speech he definitely and conclusively stated that there would be greater facilities, there would be greater efficiency and, he also added, there would be more courtesy in the management of civil aviation if it is handed over to private companies. I do not accept this statement. I refuse to believe, whatever might be said of the past governments, that the present all party government can be less courteous or less efficient than some of our capitalists who are here to take up these services. I have not moved this Resolution simply to get mental satisfaction as a socialist—I am not a full-fledged socialist either—but I consider this proposition from the administrative point of view as a sound one. We are just starting civil aviation in this country. India is a very big country and is eminently suitable for the expansion of air services. I would, therefore submit that as an administrative proposition or even as a business proposition it is better that the Government of India takes it over from the very beginning. Civil aviation in this country is making rapid progress. The report given by the Civil Aviation Directorate says that the public demand for air travel increased at a rate far exceeding expectations a year ago. During the first half of 1946 the total number of passengers carried by the air services was 87,633 as compared with 24,000 in the whole of 1945. Air travel is becoming very popular and is bound to increase as we go ahead. I am aware that some of the Honourable Members—I will not say some of the Honourable Members of this House who represent the vested interests—might get up and say that if it is in the hands of private companies it will be more efficient, and why should the government spend so much on this when it is not directly connected with the welfare of the masses? To that I respectfully submit that of all the industries civil aviation is better suited to be departmentally run. At the present moment we have got all the necessary things owned by the government. All aerodromes, landing grounds, emergency landing grounds with all the hangars and buildings and runways, etc., costing enormous sums belong at present to the government. Civil aerodromes numbering about 150 and the air-force aerodromes numbering twice as many, all belong to the government. The length of the runways is as much as a road from Calcutta to Bombay. Again, we have got the entire lot of aerodrome equipment, maintenance equipment, operational equipment, radio equipment, radio beacons and other stores costing millions to the government. We have got all these things with us. Almost all aircraft owned today by private companies and private owners have been sold by the Government. Then we have got specialist technicians for all branches of the Aviation. Many were trained at the expense of the Government 15 or 20 years ago. We have got the Meteorological Department, the Central P.W.D. Aviation Wing, Inspection Section, Posts and Telegraphs, Customs and Police and the rest. We have already got all these. Then we have got transport aerodromes for the carriage of goods and passengers. We have got all the apparatus and what is much more important we have got quite a large number of machines at present with the Government. The Dakota machines are being disposed of by Government.

[Sardar Mangal Singh]

at a comparatively cheap price. Some of these machines have been purchased by private companies from the Government at a price of Rs 70,000 or 80,000, while these machines have been bought from America for more than two or three lakhs. Some of them are quite new.

Now Sir, we have got all the machines to run all these lines. We hardly require more than 70 or 80 machines or it may be 100 machines at the utmost. At the present moment, all these companies which are running have got only 19 large and 6 small machines. The Government at the present moment have got a large number of machines. The Dakota machines have been tested in the war. They cost less. They gave good service but for some reason or other—about which my Honourable friends on my right might say something—these machines are being run down by propagandists who are in the pay of the British and the British machines are being advertised. I am not representing the Americans. I am for getting cheaper machines and the best machines. I am not prepared to pay more for a similar machine. Sir propaganda is being carried on to run down these machines and to popularise British made machines in India. Recently one concern has given orders for the purchase of six machines. One of them has arrived and on the very first day when a demonstration was to be given that machine nosedived and two machines prepared by the same factory crashed. I have no quarrel with any factory or any machine. The point which I want to make is that the Government of India at the present moment have got a sufficiently good number of machines to run this department themselves. They have got the aerodromes, equipment, personnel and machines. Why hand over all this property of the Government to the private owners? I ask—why not run it yourself?

The other point which I want to make and which is very serious is this and I want the Defence Department to take note of it. If you run the department yourself and if an emergency comes or war comes, then you can switch off the whole of the machines to the war requirements without any difficulty. Whether you want war or not, it will come. It is not a question of a wing or not wanting. War is coming and if you hand over this department to the profiteers it will be very difficult to switch off the machines to the war requirements. There were some difficulties at the start of the last war. The pilots who accepted service under certain conditions were unwilling to serve under different conditions. Then again the Indian Air Force Department is organising a transport command. That command will also do similar flights. Why duplicate? Why not let that department do this and also give exercise and practice to our pilots. If you do that, you reduce your expenses. You increase the efficiency and the striking force of the Indian Air Force. I would therefore say that it would be a wrong policy for the Government of India to hand over this department to the profiteers.

Then Sir the argument is advanced—Oh just wait. Let these capitalists sink their money in it and after some time we will take possession of it. I want my Honourable friends to get rid of this delusion. They may not be able to take possession of the wealth of the capitalists. On the other hand, I am afraid the capitalists might take possession of our Government.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport)
You need not fear that all

Sardar Mangal Singh: I need not fear so long as there are strong men there as at present but there may be different men at the time of the next election. The capitalists may arrange to send their own men. We should not forget this. We cannot visualise that there will always be strong men there like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Pandit Nehru or my friend the Nawabzada. Other men will be sent in their places and therefore I am afraid that we will not be able to control them. On the other hand things may work just the other way about and we may end up by succumbing to their propaganda, to their cajoling and to all sorts of sweet talk. I wish to remind my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches and particularly my friend Mr Asaf Ali that during the last

50 or 60 years our leaders have been talking of the nationalisation of the railways

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We have nationalised them

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am very glad I am saying—nationalise air transport also. If one of the members on the Treasury Bench gets up and says that private companies will be more courteous, will be more efficient, I say we are condemning ourselves. We are going back on the policy laid down by the Congress during the last 50 or 60 years. I therefore wish to remind my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches that they should be very careful in this matter and should extend the same policy to the air transport. There is another small point. We are at the present moment organising co-ordination in the transport system of our country. We are co-ordinating the road transport, the rail transport and possibly the coastal shipping transport. Why not fit in this air transport also in it? I do think some scheme can be devised by which the whole system of transport may work as one unit. That will be more efficient. Private companies will hesitate to operate lines which are not sufficiently remunerative. They will not pay the same attention. I do not know how many applications have come before the Licensing Board. I am very sorry that the Honourable Member in charge of this subject is not here today, but anyhow the Honourable Secretary will get up and explain how many applications they have received and whether any applications have been received for lines which are likely to be less remunerative. It is an important public utility service. There may be accidents and there may be crashes. May I inquire if there are any crashes on the company-managed lines, will this House be entitled to discuss them and invite the attention of the Government to them? Or will the Government Member get up and say, "This is a matter with which the Governor General in Council has nothing to do." Our questions will be returned by the Honourable the President saying, "The Honourable Member is hereby informed that this is a question with which the Governor General in Council is not concerned." We cannot ask a question even about the Reserve Bank which is the product of the legislation of this House. I therefore, do not wish to hand over the safety and service of these lines to the private-owned companies whose primary object would be to fleece the public to earn profits and no more. This profit motive is the root of all troubles. I wish the present Government of India will set an example so that other countries may know that in India at least they have stopped all exploitation by the capitalist classes.

Sir, the proposition that I am putting forward is not a novel one. There are other very successful air lines in the world which are at present being operated by the State. I would remind my Honourable friend that the Dutch Air Line is a State-owned and State-managed concern and that line is very successful. In Russia, of course, all air lines are State-owned and State-managed. Even in the United Kingdom, from which most of our administrators get their inspiration, they are also marching towards nationalisation. The present Government of India should work in a way that all the means of production, particularly the public utility companies and the key industries, are taken over by the Government. I am very glad that in the United Provinces steps are being taken to take over the land of the zamindars and to put it to more useful purposes. (Interruption) I am also asking the House to pass a Resolution. The point which I wish to make out is that we should make full use of the resources of our country to drive away poverty, ill-health and ill-fortune from our country. Half of our land is lying idle and there are other sources of production which are not put to full use. I refuse to believe for a moment that Pandit Nehru would be less efficient than Messrs. Tata and Birla. I refuse to believe that. Then, Sir, some friends might get up and say that it is a losing concern. That argument will be brought forward because all these are the tactics of the capitalists. As I have shown, we need not spend much. We have got all the equipment,—the machinery, the personnel and everything else, and the Government need not be afraid of putting in their

[Sardar Mangal Singh] money, lest it may be a losing concern. Sir, I do not claim to be a business-man, but I can very well imagine that leaders of the companies who have applied for licences, such as, the Tatas, Birlas and Dalmas and others, are not fools. If they did not expect good dividends, they would not invest their money. So, we need not be afraid of it.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division, Muhammadan Rural) They will give 50 per cent dividend or may be even cent per cent.

Sardar Mangal Singh My Honourable friend has increased it even cent per cent. So, we need have no fears on that account. The air travel has become very popular and the revenues will increase. I am not a prophet but I can foresee that after one or two years the Air Department of the Government of India will be able to contribute a substantial sum to the Central Exchequer, like the Railways. I, therefore, have no hesitation in asking the House to adopt this Resolution.

Several amendments have been tabled. I am not one of those who will make a fetish of words or phraseology. My object is that civil aviation should be taken over by the Government and run departmentally. If other suitable words can be substituted, I have no quarrel with them as long as my object is achieved. My Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall has given notice of an amendment. I have read it and re-read it. It sounds well, but I would like to hear him before I give any opinion on it, because it is capable of different interpretations. Sometimes it looks to me that it is neither fish nor fowl. Unless my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall, for whom I have great respect, assures me that the steps will be taken by the Government to take over civil aviation departmentally, I am afraid I cannot at this stage say that I am agreeable to that amendment.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) It may be flesh, if not fish or fowl.

Sardar Mangal Singh There are other amendments. They will be moved, and after I hear them, we might come to some agreed decision. I wish to assure the Government that it is not my intention to embarrass them any more. Probably the Licensing Board is sitting and this is the right time.

An Honourable Member No, it is not sitting.

Sardar Mangal Singh I think this is the most appropriate time for this House to express an opinion and give directions to the Government which I hope will abide by the decision of this House. I request Honourable Members to treat this motion purely on its merits. In this connection, I would request the leaders of the two major parties in this House to release their members and to give them full freedom of speech and vote in this House. This is not a political issue. It is not a vote of no confidence. It is a first class public matter on which the opinion of the House should be taken. I therefore say that members of the Congress Party and Muslim League Party should be free to vote and speak as they like. Sir, I commend this motion to the House.

Mr. President: Resolution moved.

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that Civil Aviation be run as a State Department like the State Railways and be not handed over to the private enterprise.'

There are a number of amendments tabled by Honourable Members and in order to facilitate further discussion, as the Members speaking will not have a right of reply, except the Mover, it is better that the House should be in possession of all the amendments. The first in chronological order is in the name of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I do not propose to move my amendment in view of the more comprehensive amendment tabled by my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Sir, I move

"That for the original Resolution the following be substituted

This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that early steps should be taken, keeping in view the principles of State Control or State ownership, to lay down the lines of Government action in connection with the development of Civil Aviation in India both in the matter of internal and external lines"

Mr. President: Amendment moved

'That for the original Resolution the following be substituted

This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that early steps should be taken, keeping in view the principles of State Control or State ownership, to lay down the lines of Government action in connection with the development of Civil Aviation in India both in the matter of internal and external lines"

I had an amendment in the name of Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth and Mr Siddique Ali Khan has a further amendment to the same. There is also the amendment of Capt. Syed Abid Hussain

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West-Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) If it is decided that only one portion should be voted upon, it would be easier. Otherwise the whole amendment of Capt. Abid Hussain will have to be accepted or rejected. Mine and Mr Siddique Ali Khan's are in two portions.

Mr. President: The difficulty is that Mr Siddique Ali Khan's would be an amendment to an amendment. For the purpose of dividing an amendment into two parts for voting, there should be one amendment as a whole, instead of being an amendment to an amendment.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: There would be separate voting, if the House decides it.

Mr. President: If the Chair so decides, I do not mind putting it into two parts. It would then be more convenient than to take up Capt. Abid Hussain's amendment first.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Shall I move my amendment?

Mr. President: If that is moved, the other (Capt. Abid Hussain's) will be barred.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: These are two separate amendments. That would be the third amendment. So far as that is concerned there is no difficulty. The idea is to give facility to the House to vote separately if they so desire.

Mr. President: I see the point of the Honourable Member. But then the difficulty which I may point out to him would be that if he moves his amendment, the other one of Mr Siddique Ali Khan's comes as an amendment to an amendment. Therefore, at the time of voting, the position would be that if Mr Siddique Ali Khan's amendment is carried then his amendment will be amended by that amendment and the whole will be put to the vote again, the same amendment cannot be put separately again as part of the substantive amendment. That would be the position.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Once his amendment is accepted, then my amendment stands amended with that amendment and that becomes a substantive amendment.

Mr. President: The point is that if his amendment stands amended by the acceptance of the amendment of Mr Siddique Ali Khan, then it will not be possible for me to divide that amendment again into two portions for the purpose of voting.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Then there is no further amendment.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: To obviate this difficulty, my Honourable friend Haji Ishaq Seth might himself add the words which are the subject matter of the amendment of Mr Siddique Ali Khan's. There will be only one amendment.

Mr. President: That involves the question of my giving him permission to introduce a matter of which he has not given notice.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The House is aware of that amendment. *It is not new.*

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: If that is your ruling, then Capt Abid Hussain will move his amendment.

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member is prepared to accept the course that he does not want me to split up the amended amendment, he can continue.

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agia Division Muhammadan Rural): If the amendment of Mr Siddique Ali Khan is accepted, it will be put up as one thing and not as two.

Mr. President: If he further wants me again to split it up, that cannot be done while in the other amendment it can be done. That is the point which I wish to bring to the notice of the House.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban): I was trying to catch your eye all this time, but I did not succeed. Sir, I want to know whether a negative amendment can be moved or can the original motion be dis-established entirely by an amendment?

Mr. President: The point of order involves two issues which are separate and independent. So far as the former part is concerned as to whether a negative amendment can be moved or not, I am clear that a negative of the original proposition cannot be moved and the Honourable Member has the right to oppose it. But so far as the substitution is concerned which does not mean a negative of the original proposition, I see there are precedents in which such amendments have been allowed.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Sir, I move

(i) That between the words 'be' and 'run' the words 'owned, controlled and be inserted, and

(ii) that for all the words occurring after the words 'State Department' the words 'by Provincial Governments' be substituted."

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

(i) That between the words 'be' and 'run' the words 'owned, controlled and be inserted and

(ii) that for all the words occurring after the words 'State Department' the words 'by Provincial Governments' be substituted."

Mr. Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar Muhammadan): Sir, I move

"That in the amendments proposed by Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth after the words 'by Provincial Governments' the following be added

"in accordance with co-ordinated schemes drawn up by a Central Committee on which the Provincial Governments are adequately represented."

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

"That in the amendments proposed by Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth after the words by Provincial Governments' the following be added

"in accordance with co-ordinated schemes drawn up by a Central Committee on which the Provincial Governments are adequately represented."

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock. Mr President (the Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. President: Seth Govind Das. I believe the Honourable Member knows that there is a time limit of fifteen minutes.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadian): Yes, Sir. I rise to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lal. In my opinion there is not much difference between the

Resolution of my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, and the amendment moved by Diwan Chaman Lal. In principle both agree because the amendment also it is stated 'keeping in view the principles of State Control or State Ownership'. The words, State Ownership are there which mean that if the Government think it advisable to make aviation a State-owned enterprise it can do so.

Now, Sir, we cannot deny the fact that there is a lot of difference in the position in which we were before this Session of the Assembly and the position in which we are today. There is no doubt that we have not got complete independence, yet we cannot deny this fact also that today the Treasury Benches are occupied by the real representatives of the people (An Honourable Member Peoples) and the interests of the country are absolutely safe in their hands. Therefore, Sir, the amendment which has been brought forward by my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lal, is as it ought to be under the present circumstances. But though we have full confidence in the present Government, yet we can express what we think proper in this House and recommend to them what they ought to do.

I am, Sir, for nationalization of this industry, and I have got my own reasons for it. I shall relate my reasons briefly. First of all, we cannot help big business to go on having huge profits. In provinces we want to abolish agricultural zamindari. In the United Provinces Assembly, we have passed a resolution for nationalization of industries also. While, Sir we are contemplating to abolish agricultural zamindaris we cannot help in the establishment of commercial zamindars. My other reason for nationalization of this industry is that no transport system can be perfect in this land unless we have all sorts of transports co-ordinated. Now, Sir, aviation is also one kind of transport, and we know that though we have plans for co-ordinating rail-road system yet how difficult it is for us to co-ordinate these two transports and that is because vested interests have been created on roads. Now if we give aviation to private concerns vested interests would be created in this sphere as well and it would be difficult for us to co-ordinate aviation with rail and roads. The third reason why I am opposed to this enterprise going in the hands of private concerns is that so far our plans for industrialization of the country are not made and we want first machinery for making machinery in our country and then we want machinery for heavy industries. If this industry remains in the hands of the State, only those lines will be worked which are found absolutely essential and aviation would be expanded when we start making our own aeroplanes. If we go on importing motor cars, aeroplanes and other consumer goods indiscriminately, our sterling balances, which we could accumulate after such a long time and after such great trouble would dwindle away.

Sardar Mangal Singh: They are already selling rotten machines.

Seth Govind Das: And therefore in the interest of our industrialization it is necessary that this industry should remain in the hands of the Government. My fourth reason for not giving this enterprise to private concerns is that they will never have aviation lines well distributed. Their eyes will be on profits and they will only work such lines which will give them huge profits ignoring the interior of the country, and also ignoring the medical, postal and other facilities which will give less profit, but more convenience to the rural and semi-rural population of this country. My fifth and the last reason for not giving it to the private concerns is that if it is given to the private concerns, there will be cut-throat competition and there will not be any standardization of the industry as it ought to be. In view of these reasons, I am in favour of making this industry a state enterprise, but at the same time I do not want to bind the hands of the Government and say that they should do such and such a thing. If they feel that at present there should be only control of this industry they should be at liberty to do so, and this is what the amendment of Diwan Chaman Lal asks.

If the Government think that it is advisable to control this industry there are two ways of doing this. One is to invest sufficient amount of capital in these concerns, I mean 51 per cent and the other is to make such rules and

[Seth Govind Das]
regulations which will control the working of this industry. In my opinion there cannot be any proper control unless there is 51 per cent investment of the Government in these concerns. But Sir, this also I want to leave in the hands of the Government. These are my suggestions which I am putting before them for consideration.

As far as control is concerned, eminent industrialists have themselves accepted that some sort of control of industries is necessary. The President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber of Bombay recently said "We realize that a certain amount of regulations and control by the State will be necessary and may have to be accepted." Now Sir, what kind of control it ought to be and in what way it should be done should be left to the Government. But unless and until, as I have said, there is sufficient investment, by making rules and regulations alone there cannot be any proper control. I can give many instances in this respect. But I shall content myself by giving only one illustration and that is, Sir, the working of the Factories Act. Recently, the Honourable the Labour Member brought a measure here and while moving it he himself admitted that control by making rules and regulations cannot be effective.

There is one more point towards which I want to draw the attention of the Government. They should see that this industry remains an Indian industry. Recently Sir, an article appeared in the Eastern Economist, in which it is said that recent developments unhappily go to prove that Government are not acting up to their professions of permitting the development of Indian Air services, both internal and external by Indian enterprise under Indian management and to encourage the employment of Indians. It was disclosed in the course of the Assembly debate on the grant for Civil Aviation that one of the two major companies is operated by managing agents in whose firm non-Indians hold 60 per cent of the share capital and five out of the seven seats of Directors.

And, Sir, while concluding my remarks, I shall point out that the policy of the Government in this respect should be clear. So far Sir, we were being ruled by an alien Government. The interests of India were not safe in their hands. They wanted to encourage foreign capital and the foreigners. But now, Sir, the reins of the Government have come into the hands of the real representative. The attitude of the Government which was ruling so far, with regard to industries can be known from a statement of Government's industrial policy which was issued in 1945 by the Planning and Development Department. They said

"The attitude of Government towards industry in the past was for many years one of *laissez faire*. Till the war of 1914-18 this policy was maintained in the belief which was in accordance with current economic doctrine that industrial progress was best achieved by unregulated private enterprise. This attitude underwent some modification after the last war through the adoption of the policy of discriminatory protection."

But we know that up till now the same policy practically continues.

In 1919 Mr. Montague, the then Secretary of State for India said

"I accept the fundamental principles underlying the recommendations of the Commission that in future Government should take an active part in the industrial development of the country. Secondly, that Government cannot undertake this work unless provided with an adequate administration, equipment and forearmed with reliable scientific and technical advice."

But in spite of a lapse of 25 years, the Government remain where they were. I expect that as the circumstances have changed the present Government will look into the policy thoroughly and will see that if this industry is not immediately nationalised steps will be taken so that it is fully controlled and is nationalised in the near future. I support the amendment moved by Diwan Chaman Lal.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division, Muhammadan Rural)-I rise to raise my voice against the resolution so ably moved by Sardar Mangal Singh. I am afraid his speech was too emotional. I am not convinced with the arguments that he advanced that this industry should be taken over by

the State I should like to read an extract of a speech by Mr Herbert Morrison leading member of the British Socialist Cabinet

"People have been known to go red in the face of blue or both red and blue, in discussing it (nationalization) either as pronationalisers or antinationalisers

There is however no real need for excessive excitement for the question to be decided is whether, in the circumstances, the industry is likely to be better run by free competitive private enterprise, or controlled and supervised monopoly enterprise, or by public enterprise, of one sort or another

It is up to nationalisers to prove their case that there will be public advantage by nationalization It is no less up to the antinationalisers to prove their case that the public interest can best be served by private ownership "

This I am afraid, my friend has failed to do To judge whether State or private enterprise will give better benefits we must consider three points (a) That Air Lines in India are properly co-ordinated (b) That further subsidies and fares are kept as low as possible (c) Greatest possible efficiency, latest improvements to be incorporated and best and most courteous services If this can be achieved by private enterprise, we are certainly for it If not, we are definitely for nationalization

In air line operation, there are following factors to be considered very carefully (a) It should not be forgotten that this is a very highly specialised subject (b) Of great importance are the commercial and human aspects (c) Rapid and continuous changes take place in designs of aeroplanes and in operations (d) Lastly, that large elements of personal contact with passengers is involved

The question is whether the State can give you better results than private companies This is a fact which requires to be carefully considered I am sure all of us will agree that the way the present airways in India are being run is to my mind very satisfactory We are also all satisfied with their timings, the comforts that are offered to us and in every respect they are most satisfactorily run Every day we hear in the House and even outside 'Look at the railways which are run by the State, hundreds of complaints, but have you ever heard of complaints against Indian Airways' We have not come across any accidents, whereas we read in the papers every week of train crashes

My friend said that the Government of India can take over the industry, as they have 90 Dakotas May I tell my honourable friend that those Dakotas which are offered to Airways today are useless Lives will be in danger if they are used Now look at the companies I know, Sir, that all the private companies in India are importing from England first-class machines equipped on modern lines I would ask my friend Sardar Mangal Singh, to be the Member in charge and take over those Dakotas and see how far he will succeed These Dakotas are of no use I would advise my friend the Secretary for Posts and Air to see that these Dakotas are not offered to the public for use They are so much scrap and I am sure the Dakotas which have been lying in the dump in Bengal are absolutely of no use and they should be burnt

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Which airline company do you belong to?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I represent none I can assure my friend that I was offered a Directorship by three well known companies, but I refused to be a Director I desire to have no interest in any air line I know myself that it will not be a paying concern I will be the last to start a concern myself I can assure my friend that I am speaking from an unbiassed point of view and I hold brief for none

One point I would like to say against State Management State management of airlines would subordinate air transport to the interests of railways as in the case of road development, where railways are jealous competitors and will retard the development of national aviation My friend said that we have got best brains in the Cabinet and they will be able to run this under State

[Mr Ahmed E H Jaffer]

management. But may I ask him whether they have got all those resources at their control which private companies have? It will be very difficult for even the Honourable Members in the Interim Government to run this as a State-managed concern. I hope they will drop that idea even if they have got it in their mind. I can assure my friend that I do not doubt their ability. I know they are the best men in the country but that is not the point. The point is whether they have the resources.

Secondly these airlines will be subject to the influence of political groups, which we should all avoid. The policy which has been outlined by the Honourable Member in charge, a Congress nominee, can be changed today by the present member, a Muslim League nominee. If policy is going to be changed like this as Members in charge change, that I am afraid the air companies will not know what to do in future. In this connection I would like to read only a few lines from the statement of the previous Member, Mr. Ali Zuhreer, as far as nationalisation is concerned.

"The question of nationalisation of air services has been agitated in papers and has engaged the attention of Government. The present policy of Government on this question is to allow private companies, licensed by the Air Transport Licensing Board, to operate the internal route. In coming to this conclusion the Government has been greatly influenced by the consideration that its machinery is not as yet so highly developed as to enable it to undertake actual operations in aviation.

The progress of civil aviation in the beginning can be achieved more by permitting private companies to operate on internal routes under strict Government licensing and supervision.

The Government hopes that on account of private enterprise greater facilities, efficiency and economy will be available to the passengers than if the services were to be nationalised at this stage."

I am sure no members of this House would disagree from this. The Government's case in favour of private concerns is so strong that it needs no further clarification.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Government themselves have repudiated it in reply to my question.

Sir Harold Shobert (Secretary, Communications Department): No, Sir, that has not been repudiated.

Sardar Mangal Singh: You said that that was the view of the Government of India at that time.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I would also like to read one more quotation on the subject from the *Indian Finance* of the 12th October, 1946.

"There is hardly any exaggeration in the statement that as things stand the easiest way of killing new enterprises in this country is to hand it over to Government—to nationalise it."

I would suggest to the Government that they should not embark on this mission of taking over civil aviation under state control. Their hands are already too full at present and I am sure their hands will be also too full in the future. Let them first see to the basic needs of the country and let them devote their time and attention to the question of providing food, clothing and housing to the people of the country and then let them embark on other ventures. I personally think that the time has not come when they can think of taking over civil aviation under state control.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to support the original Resolution so ably worded and moved by my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh. That Resolution in a very clear way has stated the objective of the Resolution, which is the ownership of civil aviation by the State. Sir, I strongly oppose the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal, which though on the face of it, looks very innocent and harmless, gives an impression that he also stands for some sort of nationalisation of civil aviation. I would draw the attention of Honourable Members to the amendment of Diwan Chaman Lal, where he very clearly states "keeping in view the principles of State Control or State Ownership." He talks of "or state ownership." He does not say "and state ownership" which means that it may be

owned by the State or it may not be owned by the State and to that extent it is essentially a very different idea sponsored by Diwan Chaman Lall as against the one which is already embodied in the Resolution itself.

Civil Aviation is certainly a public utility service. It is used by the public it is for the benefit of the public and if the policy of the present Government is for social welfare both the parties who are today occupying power, if their policy is to nationalise the key industries and essential services, this is the time when they can act upon their declarations. I can very well understand if they openly come out and say that they do not stand for nationalisation of key industries but I cannot understand nor appreciate the moving of such amendments which looks like pseudo-socialist amendment. It gives the idea that we stand for nationalisation and quietly and silently it has been moved "or otherwise." It makes no sense. Again I would like to draw the attention of the House to a question which was asked by my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh on the 31st October.

"Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there has been continuous and rapid growth of air transport in India and that air services are in private hands."

And the reply given at that time was that

The policy of the Government was in favour of regulated private enterprise. The present Government has no time to review the policy to announce to the House soon. I may, however, say that the House will have an opportunity to discuss this subject on Sardar Mangal Singh's resolution to be debated on the 8th November. Probably by that time I may be in a position to indicate Government's policy."

This is a reply given to this House on the 31st October during this very session. I am waiting with great interest to know what the Government policy is going to be on this Resolution. As it has been already pointed out by the Mover of the Resolution this particular industry cannot exist or cannot continue its proper functions without the aid of the State. Even today the Government have to supply them the pilots and they are responsible for the education of the pilots. They have to have the aerodromes they have to have certain supervisory staff. In various ways without Government support this private enterprise cannot go on and I fail to understand why Government should want to aid an enterprise of private individuals. The meaning of the word 'private enterprise' presupposes profits. An industry for use can be run only if it is owned by the state. I have been awaiting and watching the policy of the present government, and I hope that on this issue at least government members will boldly come forward and say that they accept the spirit of the Resolution. The national government which is in power should stand for the nationalisation of key industries and should not want to declare their intentions. I am very much grieved to note that in certain respects where the government have already declared their policy like at the trade and employment committee, the Honourable Member made his declaration of state policy when he talked of giving protection to private industries by giving them high tariffs and subsid as I have no quarrel provided they come out and say so openly. Then I will know where I stand. But it always happens that able men like Diwan Chaman Lall, with his parliamentary experience of so many years who can make able speeches and convince the House,—says that instead of 'and' he has put that little word 'or', which makes all the difference in the resolution which has been moved by my friend Sardar Mangal Singh. The present Government from whom we expect great things, on the question of industrial unrest also has foisted the Trade Disputes Act on working classes. These are not the ways by which the social welfare of the country can be brought about, these are not the methods by which the present government can create the confidence in the public to feel that now we have our own government at the centre and we can expect better things. Big manifestoes have been drawn up by both the political parties who are today in the seats of government. Only two months before they were on this side and I know that questions were asked about nationalisation of certain industries, but today when they are put in power, let us

[Miss Maniben Kara]

hope that they do not noodwink the public. One of my friends in his speech has stated, that because there is a national government we must ditto them. He is of the opinion that, it will be a terrible thing if the policy of the government changed every time with the change of colour of the skin of the members of government. Sir, that is precisely our point. We have been fighting against the particular system which has been followed by the foreign government. We have not been fighting for the mere change of the colour of the skin, but we expect that the national government consisting of Indians—will change the system and policy which has been followed by the foreign government which was keeping the country in starvation and misery and was responsible for all sorts of evils in this country—my reply to the last speaker is this: he must realise that we certainly do demand that with the change of the government, the policy of the government must change. If the intention of the present government is, as is pointed out, the maintenance of the *status quo*, I think we have fought the battle in vain. We may get political independence, but it will not be freedom for the masses. For freedom of the masses it will be absolutely essential that we should give up the policy which has been pursued by the foreign Government and that we should accept a progressive policy which alone will guarantee peace and harmony and happiness for this country. I am surprised that some members from the Congress benches have come forward and asked us that we should not expect drastic changes simply because now at the centre there is a national government. It is because we have an Indian government that we have a right to claim from them certain changes. We could not make that claim from a foreign government because they came here to suppress and to exploit us. Their motive was very clear, they came away all these thousands of miles to have no other benefit except to exploit us. But we certainly expect better and greater things from an Indian government, and I would be most grieved to have any such utterances coming from members of the so called popular parties.

I would therefore think that this is high time that on such questions of social importance whereby the social welfare of the common people can be safeguarded, the government must come forward with their declared policy. This is their opportunity, and I think Sardar Mangal Singh's resolution is most timely and let the entire nation judge the present government by their action. I would therefore appeal to my friend, Diwan Chaman Lal, to withdraw his amendment. Every one of us should pass the Resolution unanimously, expressing our opinion so that the government may take note of the Resolution which has been passed here. Let us not take the other way round, that we should go on, as pointed out by one of the speakers, supporting the government in all their actions. No. These legislatures are going to control the government, and not the government going to control the legislatures. That should be the position. I am surprised that an honourable member belonging to a popular party should come forward on the floor of this House and make a statement that we must let the Government decide what they want to do, whether they want to control industry or own it. Why should the government decide? It should be this Assembly that should decide whether they will control or they will own it. I do not want to say more, because most of the points are covered by the Mover of the Resolution. I hope that this resolution which has been moved is absolutely in accordance with the declaration of both the parties who from the government and they will accept this Resolution in spirit and in action. With these words I strongly oppose all the amendments and support only the original resolution moved by Sardar Mangal Singh.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official). Mr President, it appears to me that my friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, and Maniben and Company have formed the opposition in this House. They are welcome to do so, and I wish them God speed and success. But I would like to draw attention to the constitutional position in this House. It is very different to what it was a few months ago. Today on the treasury benches we have representatives of the

two main parties in this House, the Congress and the League, and it is expected that members of those parties will support their government, will support the treasury benches

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Do you know if this is their view?

Mr. President: Order, order

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: My friend Mr Joshi is welcome to be in the opposition I might have added his name to the company The constitutional position I desire to place before this Honourable House is this, that if you are to have party government, the House should not definitely express its opinion in such definite terms as are contained in my Honourable friend the Sardar's Resolution, before knowing the exact position of government You cannot expect members of the parties supporting the government to definitely commit themselves to a policy which they might find is not acceptable to the government The constitutional position is that the Government declares their policy The Opposition oppose The supporters of Government support that policy and have the privilege of criticising but as soon as they oppose Government by their vote, then either the Government is defeated and another Government comes in or those Government supporters who oppose form another party Now, that is the constitutional position in every legislature of a democratic character Now, my Honourable friends here desire to express a definite opinion on a policy which has not been properly formulated by Government but on which a member of the Interim Government has expressed a definite opinion There is no question of change of colour One member of the Interim Government resigns and another takes his place That makes no difference You have to take the opinion of the member of the Interim Government who expressed an opinion on this question

Miss Maniben Kara: He has not expressed

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: It was read out and if my Honourable friend could not understand the meaning of plain English I cannot help her I am fairly certain that it was worded very clearly It was a member of the Interim Government who expressed the opinion That opinion was read out to this Honourable House and it was on the very question we are discussing Now, Sir the Opposition—I will call it the Opposition—formulates a Resolution contrary to that opinion expressed by a member of Government and my friend behind me calls upon Government to carry out their pledges to serve the country and to do everything that is for the benefit of its people I know it is all very pretty to say that Mr President, we have been accustomed to hear that sort of language in the past Those things were suitable then but today they are not suitable and we must change our mentality We must change our methods because we are in a totally different position and therefore I congratulate my friend Diwan Chaman Lall on having drafted a Resolution on which is suitable and coming as it does from the supporter of a party which is on the Treasury Benches, we cannot expect my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall to dictate to Government that they shall do so and so

Miss Maniben Kara: Why not

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does not my friend understand what it is to have a constitutional Government? If she wants to oppose for the sake of opposition, I do not deny her that wonderful position but the position is very different now

(Interruption by Maulana Zafar Ali Khan)

Mr. President: Order, order Let the Honourable Member proceed

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Mr President, you did not hear that interruption It was excellent He said that in a war of words, it is difficult to beat a woman Mr President, you and I have had opportunities in the past of having to deal with them and neither you nor I are going to be frightened

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir]

Now, Mr President, having explained the constitutional position to the best of my ability, I say that it is not up to either members of the Muslim League or the Congress in the very beginning of our constitutional life in this House to lay down the policy of Government and dictate to them that they shall follow it. When they formulate their policy, I will have no objection to any member of the Muslim League or of the Congress criticising Government and saying "we do not agree." I myself reserve to myself that privilege.

Having dealt with the constitutional problem, we come to the merits of the case. I will be accused of being a capitalist. I will be accused of being partial. May I turn the tables on those who pretend not to be capitalists. They pretend that they have not got a rupee in this world. They have got nothing to invest and therefore it is their privilege to talk of ultra-socialism and to say that they are impartial and to say that if anybody does not agree with their opinion they are partial. I plead guilty to the charge of having a little money but I do contend that in all matters which affect the real interests of this country there are men who may be capitalists but who will put the country before themselves and let that be clearly understood by my friend to the right and my lady friend behind me. Therefore, Mr President, if I contend that there is a great deal of sound argument put forward by my young friend Mr Jaffer I should not be accused of being partial. This is a young industry and if it can flourish under Government control by all means have Government control. It is the one form of industry in this country or in any country which should have considerable government control. The lives of the people of this country who fly are in the hands of the management of these companies and it is up to the Government to see, by their control, that flying is made as safe as possible. That is their business and I trust that such control will be exercised impartially and strictly and that flying will be made safer in India by Government control than in any other country but that does not mean that Government should own the whole concern. (*An Honourable Member* Why?) It is all very well to call for nationalisation but one has to judge whether nationalisation of any industry is in the interests of the country and its people or whether it will damage both the Government and the people.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I rise on a point of order. My point of order is whether Government propose to take part in this debate and if they propose to take part, they should do so at an early stage.

Mr. President: That is more or less a point of opinion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We want to hear the Government view.

Sir Harold Shoober: Government would much prefer to have the views of the House first.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is not fair to the House that the Government should speak last. The House must know what the Government point of view is, so that we shall have an opportunity of speaking on that point of view. You cannot be a dictator.

Mr. President: There is a good deal of force in what the Honourable Member has said. I have myself felt it many times that it is better if the Government intervenes at an early stage because they have got the right of reply.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting). Sir, I propose to say a few words. Not being accustomed to long and unimportant speeches, I wish to point out at the outset that the Member in charge of this Department has not yet put his foot on solid ground. You all know that the Government that you see here has taken charge of running the administration of office under very difficult circumstances. We have taken office under a shadow of a great tragedy that has ever happened in this country. Just after the great Calcutta tragedy—17 days after it—, we took office. The happenings in other parts of the country are known to you. We must put our foot on solid ground before we rush into dangerous waters. We must govern or

learn to govern before we enter into hazardous undertakings. We must know what nationalisation of such important business means financially, from the point of view of administrative ability and efficiency and many other things. We are asked to remember that the Government is put to test or they are on trial for the undertakings given to the public. Nobody remembers these undertakings more than those who have made them. We know our undertakings and we know our responsibility and, therefore, we do not want to be hustled and we do not want to be pushed into things before we know that what we undertake is a solid thing. Therefore, I can only say at the present moment that the policy of Government has not yet been formed. You know the coalition Government has only been formed a few days ago. After that the Leader of the House also has been engaged in an undertaking of which I should not say much, but it is a very hazardous thing and a very dangerous thing. He has taken a very grave responsibility and he cannot avoid it. Many of us would like to know and rush to places where there is danger. Therefore, we have yet to create stable conditions in this country before we undertake the dangerous or hazardous undertakings or undertakings involving risks and we must think before we do anything of the kind.

Now I appeal to the House—I am a novice and I have no experience of Legislatures, but I feel very much disturbed—and I must confess that many of you have not yet realised that this is not the same House which it was before. We have a long business to go through. If you see the list of business, you will find that all important items are put aside and we have not done much business. There are now only four official days left in which we have to transact all the remaining business. All the important Bills are still pending. That is not the way in which business can be conducted by a House which wants the Government immediately and straightway to take to nationalisation of big industries. Therefore, what I say is that accepting the principle of nationalisation is one thing but to put it straightway into practice without caring for the consequences, without considering the implications and without examining carefully the *pros* and *cons* of the business is another. It is not nationalisation but I should say, it is the beginning of liquidation of Government altogether. Therefore, on behalf of the Government I can only say that the amendment of my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal is the proper amendment because it gives Government time to consider the whole situation.

Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr President Sir, after the lucid statement made by the Honourable the Home Member I do not think there is any need to impress the House regarding the wisdom of the amendment which has been given notice of and which has been moved by my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal. I want to assure the Mover of the original Resolution, Sardar Mangal Singh, that we the members of the Congress Party stand exactly where we did previously. I will not take much pains to refute the heated arguments of my very good friend Miss Maniben Kara. She has complained of the change of skin. Naturally, Sir, when the Party in opposition goes behind the Government, there is bound to be some change in the skin but we, the Members of the Congress Party, have not changed our mind or our character at all. But my friend Miss Maniben Kara has neither changed the skin nor the soul behind the skin. At a previous stage, she was behind the then Government and accused the Congress Party of its impractical ideology.

Miss Maniben Kara: And also the Government.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: That was only a ruse. Even now she is accusing the Congress Party for its practical ideology. So, she is very constant, but it must be perfectly understood that our amendment is practically in line with and in tune with Sardar Mangal Singh's Resolution, but we want to make his proposal more workable so that it may be taken in hand immediately. As the Honourable the Home Member has clearly put it, we stand by nationalisation, but we cannot go ahead merely with the abstract proposition in hand. We should also be able to put it into effect and thus be able to achieve our object in a gradual manner. Miss Maniben Kara censured the

[Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanjal]

point very much when she thought that Diwan Chaman Lal's amendment is a negation of the original resolution. Definitely it is not. Therefore, all her invectives against this amendment were beside the point.

I do not agree with my Honourable friend Mr Jaffer's arguments. He was satisfied with the courtesy of the private enterprise, he was satisfied with the efficiency of the private enterprise, and he was satisfied with the timing of the private enterprise. The real thing regarding which satisfaction is necessary is not this. We are not really satisfied that the profits should go to private pockets. That makes the distinction. The State must earn all the profits. I think the Birlas, the Tatas and the Dalmas and a host of others, even if they give maximum satisfaction to the passengers by efficient service, even then we will not be satisfied because all the profits are taken away by them. The State must earn the profits so that they will go to the advantage of the commoner. We are committed to our fundamental declarations, we have declared in our election manifestos and in other spheres and contexts that all means of transport are to be nationalised or controlled by the State. My Honourable friend Miss Maniben Kara should apply her mind to the English wording. There is something like the conjunctive 'or' and the disjunctive 'and' and there in the election manifesto 'or' is used in a comprehensive sense. Here also in the amendment, Diwan Chaman Lal has used it in the same sense. I hope our Government will be able to make rapid strides in the direction of nationalisation in a practical spirit of achieving immediate results. Sir, there is no use mincing matters. My Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh ought to understand why instead of supporting his Resolution, we have had to give this amendment which is the best compromise under the circumstances. The wisdom of it is illustrated by the attitude which was expressed by my Honourable friend Mr Jaffer. He is perfectly nationalistic minded. He has previously talked over this matter in a spirit which was the spirit of the Congress. But today we talk of nationalisation, but he talks in the light of private enterprise. So there is a difference between the Congress Party and the Muslim League Party here (*Interruption*). There are members who spoke in that light. What is this Government? This Government is a composite Government, it is a composition of two major political parties and also other elements. They have to compose themselves and their differences before they can go ahead with things of this nature. Sir, in this connection while realising the difficulties or drawbacks in nationalising internal services, I would invite the attention of the Government to external services and to my mind, Sir, these services can be taken up forthwith and there is no difficulty in that. If we leave our external services to open competition, then foreign companies will oust Indian companies and the result will be that in this very important matter, India will not get any berth and that is what I desire should be avoided. Sir, geographically and meteorologically India is best suited for air enterprises, and externally, Sir, if we can carry on contact with the neighbouring States and powers, we shall at once go up in prestige and that will mean a lot. Sir, this carrying of external services under nationalistic management has got commercial advantage, it has got political advantage, it has got social advantage also. Commercially it will bring crores and crores of rupees which will be available for the State and for the man in the street. Politically, Sir, this Interim Government which is out to achieve independence will at once get recognition outside this country, if India's air services are operated for the purpose of contact with all independent countries of the world. Sir, my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh was pleased to refer to the case of Holland. Sir, Holland is a very small country, but it has got its own state managed external services which goes as far as Sumatra. We must also have our external services which will go to the farthest corners of the country, our aeroplanes sealed with the insignia of Indian Government will reach foreign lands and will add prestige to our Government and to our people and will demonstrate to the world that the interim government has achieved political independence in action. Socially also it is necessary that we run these

services because geographically and politically we are the brain trust of all the powers in the East. You find today in Afghanistan there is no air service, in Tibet there is no air service, in Nepal there is no air service. On the one hand we can go to Cairo, and on the other, we can cut across Afghanistan to Russia, we can go to Iran, Iraq and to every side of the globe and if we have to play our role as a central force in the conglomeration of eastern powers and States, it is just necessary and desirable that we start with a proposition like this today and forthwith. Therefore, Sir, I submit that the Congress attitude must not be misconceived. I trust Sardar Mangal Singh has not misconceived our attitude. My friend Miss Mani Ben Kara rather went to the extreme length in attributing to us weakness which is not ours. We want to go in for nationalisation, that is our aim and object, but at the same time, we want to carry on consistently with limitations of the present government. We are a composite government now and the parties behind it have also got to compose and coalesce. Once this Government has settled down, once the major difficulties have been liquidated, it will be time for us then and then alone to whip the Government to action, but today in trying to get the golden egg in a spirit of extortion, we must beware that we do not kill the hen herself.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I have a great apprehension that the present problem of competition between rail-road may become later on a triple proposition, that is competition between road, rail and air. I invite the attention of this Government to this danger that is ahead. We have followed very clearly the history of the development of Indian railways. We first began with company managed railways, we gave contract to companies, gave them land, guaranteed a certain rate of interest and left the whole thing to them. After an experience of 75 years, the Acworth Committee gave its decision by the casting vote of the Chairman that all railways in India should be acquired and should become the property of the State and that they should all be run by the State, and owned by the State. We adopted this principle after our unfortunate experience of the development of railways for over 75 years. This principle was also adopted in France, Germany and other countries and it is now accepted here that the State should own the railways and run them. Again when we discussed the nationalisation of various industries, we remembered that the first place should be given for nationalisation of transport. Transport, they say, is the first industry to be nationalised. Everything else may follow. We learnt this after the bitter experience of loss of several hundreds of crores—I have not calculated the exact amount—on our railways. We then came to the conclusion that railways should be nationalised and owned by the State. I would impress upon my colleagues that they ought not to commit the same mistake which they made in the case of railways now as regards air transport. We must remember that there is bound to be a common board to control all forms of transport,—rail, road, air and also water which is an important problem in Bengal and Assam though not elsewhere. We should not make any mistake about it which may create trouble later on. We ought to learn from past experience of the railways when after 75 years we decided that all the railways should be owned and managed by the State. Secondly, we must realise that transport will have to be nationalised at an early date, and as a corollary to that, we will have a common authority to control all types of transport.

With these two main objects in view it is out of question to have these administrations and companies which may lead us to many complications. When I raised this point in supplementary questions I was told that the State is not in a position to undertake the direct administration at once because they have not got the resources and also the technical staff required. As a compromise I suggested that a contract may be given for 10 years. We should also have some control over this administration. For instance, rates and fares are important items of all traffic, and even in the case of Indian railways when companies managed them Government kept the right to fix rates and fares. So even during these ten years of contract Government should keep that right. I also hold very strongly that the fare by air should not be more than that by

[Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad]

an air-conditioned saloon. I am contemplating a time when all the first class traffic will go by air and the railways will have only two classes,—upper and lower. So the fare by air, as I said, should be the same as in air-conditioned coaches and no further profit is justifiable. I find a Resolution tabled for next week regarding a limit about the declaration of profits. So I think they should be allowed to charge only first class fares. Government at present cannot undertake the administration not for want of money but for want of technical personnel. It will take ten years to get these technical experts by opening aeronautical classes in our institutions. Another point is that the aircraft now used by these companies will be replaced by up-to-date and modern aircraft in ten years' time. I was offered by American Disposals a four-seater aircraft for Rs 4,000 but was advised by a friend there at the same time that I should not take it because in a few years' time they would be sending here modern aircraft and these machines would become obsolete. So in ten years we will be able to run these things in more comfortable aircrafts.

A point was raised by one Honorable friend that we should have some kind of control over companies registered abroad but whose airships pass through India. My own view is that in such cases these companies should be asked to pay some tax which may be fixed by the transport authority because they use our airports. We need not necessarily acquire any share in those companies unless they start from India or have their terminus here. Companies initiated here should be treated in a different manner and we should have something to say in their administration and also in their shares. Therefore I have regretfully come to the conclusion that as we are not yet prepared to undertake the administration of air transport we should give it on contract for a few years. But I feel strongly that it should not be given to one company because that one company will be so strong and will have so much influence that you will not be able to acquire it. In 1934 I saw the influence of Tata's with the members of the Assembly when the Iron and Steel Protection Bill came up for consideration in Simla and therefore I would never agree to the contract being given to one company. Create about half a dozen companies or more and give them contracts to run on different routes. By giving it to one company you will merely perpetuate its possession and you will find it difficult to dislodge it. Therefore they should be given to different companies. I know several companies are being formed in India but the crocodiles and alligators do not like to have small fish in the sea to exist. Therefore the contract should be given to smaller companies so that after ten years you will find it easy to acquire them all.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North West Frontier Province General). Sir, I would not dare to open my mouth so soon after the food debate if I did not feel that the matter before the House was really one of the most vital that has come before this session. I do not want to pretend to advise Honourable Members, I only want to point out the great importance of our decision today. Here is a test case for the future and the present Government of India, and therefore the people of India to say their intentions. The motion of my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh has not led us to discuss aviation, it has led us to the cross-roads. It has brought us to the cross-roads and we must choose the path along which we intend to carry the destinies of India. It is not a discussion of aviation, it is a discussion of principles. We must today decide whether we stand for the good of the nation or the good of the few who prey on the nation. But we must show the nation today what we mean when we call ourselves servants of the people.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan)]

We have to choose between the effective animosity of the powerful rich and the helpless love of the helpless poor. I know it is a hard choice but it is also an obvious choice. Only you must tell yourself the truth, and telling the truth, Sir, is the hardest thing to tell in the world. As I am neither rich enough to

be a financier nor poor enough to be the servant of one, I can afford to tell the truth and here it is

The financier is a hunter of the most intelligent animal—Man And like the hunter, he must use the most intelligent camouflage to hide his true nature He is a nationalist when it pays, he is an internationalist when it pays, and even a communist when it pays To him virtue is profit and sin is loss He has no moral philosophy, he cannot afford one And like a hunter he must go where the hunting is the easiest and the animals the fattest He loves the country that gives him the greatest profits But when he can mix virtue with profit, he is dressed as a nationalist Don't get taken in by the term 'National Capital' Don't let these arch-exploiters exploit your patriotism A bullet made in India will kill you just as readily as a bullet made in England or America if it is fired into your body There is no such thing as national capital, because capital, like all diseases is international Every one knows that Hitler reconstructed his Germany with English money He offered a higher interest and was given as much as he wanted, and the *Luftwaffe* for years used Rumanian petrol for bombing English homes and American soldiers—the Rumanian petrol which was produced by English and American capital A hunter does not worry what jungle he shoots in as long as he gets a good bag It is logical and rational

I have heard all the arguments in favour of private enterprise, which translated in plain English means 'public theft' I have heard all the pious and clever sermons persuading me how virtuous it is to take from those who cannot spare it and give to those who don't need it As for efficiency if the Government is good enough to look after our lives our education, our railways, and food, it is certainly good enough to look after a few dozen aeroplanes and their snobbish passengers Taken purely as a business concern it is not big enough to deserve a debate in this House but as a question of principle it is the biggest thing that has come before us If there are going to be any profits, let them go to the nation let it help the poor rather than serve the rich Our decision today will prove which are our real masters You must show whether you stand by the many poor or the few rich, whether you stand for national progress or private profit Nationalization *versus* private enterprise means that and nothing else

It is aviation today, it will be coal, iron, and petrol tomorrow We are not asked to give a verdict on aviation, we are asked to show how we intend to plan the future of India And my answer is 'nationalization'—the only protection against local chills and foreign plagues Sir, I support the motion

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Saudar Managal Singh Before I speak on the Resolution itself, I would like to say a word I myself said that a representative of the Government of India should speak at an early stage in the debate and I was very glad that the Honourable the Home Member accepted my invitation and placed before this House the views of the Government on this Resolution Unfortunately, Sir, he did not state the views of the Government but he stated the difficulties of the Government in expressing their views on this question Sir, I fully appreciate and I have no doubt the House itself appreciates the difficulties of the present Government in coming to a definite decision on the important question which is being discussed in this House There is no doubt that they are new, they have not had sufficient time to discuss these important questions and come to a definite decision We appreciate their difficulties We also appreciate that due to the disturbed condition of the country, their leaders are engaged in dealing with a very grave problem and if the Government feel that they had no time to come to a decision on this question we appreciate it But, Sir, I do not quite appreciate what the Honourable the Home Member said as regards the method in which we transact our business in this House I am not quite sure what he exactly meant by the words which he used, but I think he felt that we spend a little more time in discussing matters than perhaps he likes But I would like the Government of India and especially the Honourable

[Mr N M Joshi]

the Home Member to realize that we are here to discuss questions and we are not all belonging to one party. If the House had consisted wholly of one party perhaps a long discussion may not have been necessary. I therefore would like the Government of India to appreciate the position in which we are placed. We are not the Government. We are here to express our views and give, if I may be permitted to say so, some guidance to Government, and I am quite sure even the present Government will not consider it to be impertinent on the part of a legislature to seek to give guidance to any Government that may be in power at the Centre. My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, said something about the constitutional change. I fully appreciate the constitutional change and last time when I spoke in this House I myself stated very plainly that we welcome the new Government with open arms. We are very glad that we have for the first time a representative Government, a national Government. But Sir, that cannot take away the responsibility of this Legislature to express its views and to give guidance even to this Government. My Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir tells us now that the circumstances have changed; it is for the Government to formulate policies and it is for the House to support them.

An Honourable Member: Or oppose

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir I would fully appreciate if the Government places its policy before us. But if the Government does not place any definite policy before us, then it is our duty to give guidance to that Government according to our best lights.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: You must give them time.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I fully appreciated their difficulty but at the same time we have to transact our business. We have a non-official date for Resolutions and there is a Resolution before the House. Therefore it is our duty to express our views. I do not appreciate the difficulty pointed out by my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, difficulty brought about by a change in the circumstances of the Government. Whoever may be the Government it is the duty of the members of the legislature to speak out their considered views and give as good guidance to the Government as they can.

As regards the subject of this discussion we had only a few points spoken in favour of private management of this industry. It is generally accepted by most of the members that this is one of the industries which is eminently fitted for being conducted by the Government, that is for being nationalised. My Honourable friend Mr Jaffer said that on account of certain things this is an industry which is eminently fitted to be run by private enterprise. He said that Government cannot have the resources of private companies. This is a new argument, that the resources of private companies can be larger than the resources of the Government. I cannot understand how a private company however efficient and sound it may be, can have greater and larger resources than even the weakest Government in the world. Therefore I feel that from the point of view of resources the Government is the only organisation which can command resources enough for a very large industry. For the present air communications is a very small industry in our country. The industry is new and being new it is easier to nationalise it because vested interests have not grown up. After vested interests grow up, there will be much greater opposition to nationalisation. I therefore feel that this industry is eminently fitted to be conducted by the Government, because as my Honourable friend Mr Jaffer himself has said every day new changes are made in the structure and design of the planes and the organisation which is to run this industry must possess the resources for coping with the new inventions that are made or the new discoveries that are made.

Then, Sir when my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir said that the Government must take the responsibility for the safety of the passengers, he really pleaded for the nationalisation of this industry and the industry being conducted by Government. If Government is to be responsible for the safety of the passengers, then it is Government which must not only own but control and manage this industry. So from the point of view of safety, from the point of

view of running the industry efficiently and with the best planes we can get and from the point of view of the interest of the country this industry is eminently fitted to be run by the Government and I hope that the legislature will give a clear guidance to the Government on this point and state that as Government is now considering this question that Government has the assurance of this legislature that they should go ahead with the plan of nationalising this industry, not only owning but controlling and managing this industry

Sir, the Honourable the Home Member, whom I am very glad to see now return to the legislature, told us that there are dangers and risks in the Government adopting a policy of nationalisation. I myself do not know what the dangers and risks are in the policy of nationalisation. But I am quite sure that if there are any dangers or risks those can be overcome by the Government much better than by a private body. A private body may make losses and those losses will ultimately fall on the country. Therefore it is much better if there are any risks or dangers that those risks and dangers should be faced by Government and Government should not leave it to private parties to meet those dangers or risks. I therefore hope that the Government of India will give early time to the consideration of this most important question and boldly and courageously come to the conclusion that this industry should be nationalised, should be controlled and managed by the Government on behalf of the country. I therefore support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, during the course of my practice as a lawyer at the bar I have been accustomed to some quixotic judgments where the reasoning is in favour of the plaintiff but the judgment is against him. I thought my Honourable friend Mr Joshi would agree with my friend Mr Chaman Lal to modify or amend the resolution moved by Sardar Mangal Singh. His arguments were all in favour of the amendment. I thought that he was giving some advice or making some suggestions to the Government as to how they should make up their mind and we also expected that at a future date after the Government enunciated its policy it would be placed before the House, so that there may be an opportunity to discuss it. I thought those were the lines on which my Honourable friend was proceeding. But anyhow he has chosen to support whole-hog the Resolution of Sardar Mangal Singh. I assure him and also the lady Member that no one of us has watered down our view on nationalisation of public utility services and key industries. We do stand by it. He would have seen that in the manner in which my Honourable friend Mr Abdul Ghami Khan supported the entire nationalisation of this industry. He may take my Honourable friend Mr Ghami Khan as the engine without any coaches attached to it. An engine if it runs all alone, it may run 50 miles per hour but when a number of coaches and goods wagons are also attached to it and the longer the train is, though the engine might show a speed of 50 miles it will be actually running at 25 miles per hour. Therefore my Honourable friend can take it from us that the Congress is still wedded to this principle but the question now is how far the principle can be put into effect or into practice. Already we have committed ourselves heavily. If my Honourable friend will remember he will realise how much we have invested on this enterprise so far as will be seen in the budget that was passed last year. I am trying to place before the House a few commitments which the business will involve if we take up the service as a whole and that is why the Honourable the Home Member wanted to move cautiously with respect to this aspect.

Now, Sir, this year we passed a budget for a recurring expenditure of 6.12 crores per year—4.66 as recurring expenditure for maintaining the aerodromes, renovation, repairs, etc. Interest and depreciation alone comes to 1.46 crores per year amounting in all to 6.12 crores a year for a period of ten years. And during this period an estimate has been made of capital expenditure of 17.49 crores but the interest that we will get is this. Whereas the interest we earn is 1.46 crores we have to expend more than that even at the initial stage. Therefore you might consider whether it is at all advisable to start off straight away a number of air services from end to end not knowing what commitments it would involve our country and the taxpayer for whom all of us are jointly responsible.

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

and whose interests we are bound to safeguard. This Government is absolutely committed in due course or immediately, whenever it is possible to nationalisation of all key industries and all public utility services. In present circumstances the amendment is the only course that can be adopted. As the Honourable Home Member observed there is a change in the government itself. When the Member in charge of this portfolio before made his statement there were fewer members, assuming he was speaking on behalf of the government then. Now there is a change of membership in charge of the portfolio. What is the hurry? Cannot we wait a little before making a recommendation?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Cannot we express our opinion?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You can certainly do that, but you need not pass this Resolution and tie down the hands of the government. Licenses have been given to some companies. You will have to pay more if you are to take over all the shares in the companies now. Are we to tie down the hands of the government? We are not sitting in the same House as before. A few months ago we had a bureaucratic government in the centre and it was open to them to accept or reject any Resolution we passed. That is not the case now. If you have sufficient strength not merely to carry this Resolution but also to come and occupy our benches, you can shake this government. This government is shakeable.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We cannot

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Certainly you can. You can convert me to your views and we will shake this government. This is a parliamentary democracy, and we are all representative, we have a responsibility to support the government, we are not merely to uproot a government without taking the responsibility. They will resign and take your place, as soon as you gather sufficient strength and sufficient personnel to support your view, you must come and do the job yourself.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member must address the Chair.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am glad the Chair is also part of the government and I made a mistake in addressing our friends. I say the amendment has been very carefully worded. We cannot think of a greater propagandist of revolution on socialistic lines than my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal. He has been the champion of the cause of the poor all along and he has given in an amendment to this effect 'Or' ought not to be understood to be merely an alternative. It is cumulative. He wants that this service should be nationalised, but how and when he wants the government to make up its mind, it may set up a committee or all of them may consider it. I am only trying to give one or two suggestions which the government should take into consideration. It has been already agreed, even according to the constitution that may be framed, that communications ought to be a central subject. Under it are road thoroughfares or highways, to the extent of 17,000 odd miles—the property of the Central Government. So far as efficiency is concerned, I am suggesting for the consideration of government to ascertain the financial commitments of that under-

4 P. M. taking whether the through services from Delhi to Bombay, Delhi to Madras, Delhi to Karachi, Delhi to Calcutta etc., may not be taken up by the centre and whether the feeder services might not be left to private enterprise, so that private enterprise also will have scope, and we will have the advantage of having good competition between one service and another. They might consider this matter, but even then it is on the question of how and when they should start. We may not have the finance immediately and if we are to do this at once it may be at a loss, and to that extent the government will not be serving the interests of the public, who will thereby have to lose money.

Therefore, though we are in the abstract committed to this position that the public utility services ought to be nationalised, we have to move warily. I would remind Mr. Joshi that though the socialist government is there in England, they

have not with one stroke of the pen nationalised the railways, though they have been in power for over a year.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They have nationalised the railways

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: They have not nationalised the railways yet I ask why? It is not as if they have done everything the moment they came into power I will also ask my friend to wait a bit They have begun with some industries, we have already started nationalising the railways Only yesterday there was an accident here within four miles from here, there was also an accident in Ongole and I am still waiting to see how all these accidents might be averted and avoided Many such inconveniences may arise There may be not only financial difficulties, there may be other measures which have to be taken If there had been any other government I would have felt justified in tabling an adjournment motion With our own government, I cannot pretend and say that I am more interested in the welfare of the public than the Honorable Members who are in charge of these portfolios If it is possible to avoid accidents, they will take all the necessary steps and therefore there is no meaning in my tabling adjournment or censure motions I have confidence in them Likewise, why should we not eliminate all these difficulties? R 101, the moment it set out, was destroyed, we had all that experience, but the experience has not been utilised Therefore I would appeal to the Mover and his supporters to accept this amendment, which supports the principle and at the same time gives some time and opportunity to the government to consider this matter in all aspects and then come forward with a scheme of nationalisation immediately or in the near future We are committed to the principle

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will you give contracts for short periods or long term?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My honourable friend has himself given 10 to 15 years, that is a sufficiently long period according to me In the first year there is going to be Rs 17 crores odd non recurring, and Rs six crores odd recurring They have been modest I do not mean to say that their responsibility is over once they leave this country We want to plug all holes I am appealing to members to accept this modified form because the matter has not yet been fully considered by the government and therefore we have to proceed with care and caution I commend the amendment to the vote of this House

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (*Dacca cum Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural*)

Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment of my honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall But I am at a disadvantage as other members have been at a disadvantage, because Diwan Chaman Lall has not yet given us his views. So far as the Government is concerned, there also we are at a handicap because we see that the government has no views whatever on this subject The last speaker, Mr Ayyangar, says that the amendment of Diwan Chaman Lall is the only Resolution that could be moved under the present circumstances. But I fail to realise the reasons on which he can make that assertion What is the resolution of Diwan Chaman Lall? Is it at all a resolution? It is a recommendation to the government to lay down the lines of government action in connection with the development of civil aviation That is the recommendation I do not know how the government would have been any the worse off without this gratuitous advice on the part of my friend

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: All Resolutions are recommendatory

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: It is nothing but asking the swallow to fly or the fish to swim They can do that without any advice on the part of my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall But I appreciate the words that fell from the Honourable Home Member when he said that they have been in office only for a very short time and within this short time they have been troubled with so many other things that they have not been able to give any thought to this important subject That is a thing which the House must appreciate; but what I do not like in his speech is that that he spoke rather in a defeatist spirit His idea is that it is too risky a business Without examining the business at all, how can he make an observation that it is a risky

[Mr Tannuzuddin Khan] affair? That is where I do not agree with him. On the other hand I think that we must be up and doing. I appreciate the present difficulties of the Government. They are faced with an extraordinarily difficult situation. That is true but still we must recognise the fact that we have to keep pace with the times and that it will not do to procrastinate on an important subject like this. The busy world is not going to wait for us. The world will be running as fast as possible and if we do not take time by the forelock we shall lag behind. Therefore although the present Government is labouring under very difficult circumstances I think that the earliest opportunity should be taken to bestow serious thought on this important subject.

It has been said that the composition of the Government has changed and therefore the attitude of the different parties supporting the Government policy must undergo a corresponding change. There is something in that but there is no reason why the different parties should not be allowed to express their own views on an important matter like this. The present Government is certainly composed of representatives of the different political parties in the country but we are not yet a coalition government here. There is no coalition party in the House. The Congress Party is quite different and separate from the Muslim League Party. Therefore the position is unique and very unsatisfactory. Under circumstances like this, we, the Muslim Leaguers, do not accept the position that because there are certain representatives of the Muslim League on the Treasury Benches, the Muslim League should be precluded from giving expression to their views on important subjects.

I congratulate Sardar Mangal Singh on the excellent speech that he made and on the cogent reasons that he advanced in support of his Resolution. I do not however agree with one thing that he said. He said that the Congress policy for the last 50 or 60 years has been for the nationalisation of the key industries. That may have been the ostensible policy of the Congress but has that been their real policy? I have already said that the representatives of the Muslim League and the Congress and certain other minorities now form the Government but we should not be blind to the criticism that is levelled both against the Muslim League and the Congress by their enemies. The Muslim League is said to be an organisation of Nawabs and Knights. That is a false charge and the few Nawabs and Knights that may have been there are no longer there in the sense that they have renounced their titles. But so far as the Congress is concerned the charge against them is that the Congress is in reality a capitalistic body. It is supported by capitalists but its ostensible policy is nationalisation. Therefore I say that the Congress is on its trial. The present Government is predominantly a Congress Government. Is it going to implement its ostensible policy? Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyangar says that the Congress has always been wedded to a policy of nationalisation. Granted, but the Congress seems to be in love with capitalism.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: No, No

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: This clandestine business should cease. The Congress should come forward in their true colours.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is open business.

Mr Tamizuddin Khan: It has been said that on the ground of efficiency Government should not go into this business. One ought to have been ashamed to advance an argument like that. If the contractors and capitalists can manage a thing like this, how on earth is the Government unable to manage this airways business? The argument is that there are no technicians, no trained personnel but where will these capitalists and contractors get their technical personnel. If they can get their technical personnel, why should not the Government be able to get hold of these technical personnel. This is an argument which I fail to realise altogether. Then, Sir, if you advance the argument of efficiency and if you say that on that ground that

the Government should not take it up, then why say to the Britishers—Quit India. Let them stay here and let them manage these airways. Perhaps they will manage the affair better than an Indian concern. If the Government is a Government of the people and if this Government is going to be run for the people, then the Government cannot say—this is a business which we cannot manage. The time is coming when the Government will be a people's government. It is not yet a people's government and that is why people advance arguments like that. When it will be a people's government, it will be run for the people and no such argument will come forward from those who are responsible for running the Government. (An Honourable Member) We claim to be representatives of the people. You are claiming many things but giving proof of very few things. That is my quarrel with you.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir raised a constitutional objection. I do not agree with him there at all. He had a fling at the poor people of this country. He said that those who have nothing to invest can very well advance arguments in favour of nationalisation but those who have a stake, that is what he meant to say, have to think twice before they can talk of nationalisation.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I never said anything of the sort.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: If I remember aught, that is what he meant to say, although what he said was that people who have nothing to invest may say a certain thing. That was a fling at the poor man.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: On a point of personal explanation. The Honourable Member evidently did not hear what I said and, if he did, he did not understand it. I said that people who have something to invest can be as impartial as those who have not. I was talking of the partiality or impartiality of the two classes of people. I was saying that gentlemen like my Honourable friend accused people who had something to invest of partiality. I said that those who have a little to invest can be as impartial as those who have nothing. Now, I hope my Honourable friend will withdraw the accusation.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: I did not make any accusation. My friend spoke about those who have nothing to invest and I think that there was a fling at the poor man. Of course he talked about impartiality and nothing else. He was quite correct there but what is impartiality in this world? The capitalist is partial to himself and my Honourable friend means to say that the poor man is partial to himself. That is exactly so. But it is only to be seen who is in the majority because the world is ruled by the majority. Luckily or unluckily for my Honourable friend, the poor man is in the majority. The poor man has the final say or should have the final say and he is bound to have the final say in the very near future. Although he may be partial to himself, his word will be law and not the word of a few capitalists who still hold their sway in this country.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Something was said about rail-road competition and that this will be another thing coming into the field to compete with the railways, namely, the airways. That is all the more reason why from the very start the airways should be a Government concern, so that there may not be any difficulty such as has arisen with regard to rail-road competition. With these words I oppose the amendment of Diwan Chaman Lal and support the Resolution as sought to be amended by my Honourable friend Haji Ishaq Seth and Mr. Siddique Ali Khan.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I had no intention to take part in this debate, but as the debate proceeded I felt that there was too much talking in the air about the subject whether civil aviation is a subject fit for nationalisation immediately or whether the amendment moved by my friend Diwan Chaman Lal which seeks to make it a subject for careful

[Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj] examination by the Government is the question to be decided now. I differ from the observations that were made by my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangur with regard to the constitutional position as he stated at the present moment. So far as I can see, the constitution has not changed at all in practice. The only change is that the Government is composed or constituted of representatives of the people. That is undoubtedly so. But the fact remains that they are still irresponsible to the Legislature and it is possible for this Government to talk in a more or less irresponsible manner. Even if a miracle happens and this Resolution is carried, the Government may not give effect to it. And that is what I meant when I told my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar that this Government could not be shaken. But he has assured me that if this Resolution should ever be passed in this House, the Government would resign.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I did not say that. If it is passed by the House, we will accept it. I am not opposed to the resolution but I have only modified it.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj: In any case, I feel that the constitutional position has not so far changed as to encourage me to hope that any resolution passed by this House will necessarily be accepted by this Government. However, that is a different matter.

Coming to the subject of nationalisation, I have been listening with great interest and appreciation also to the speech of our young friend Khan Abdul Gham Khan. He really raised a very important issue when he said that it is not aviation that we are discussing today but the ultimate principle of nationalisation as a whole. The question is whether the party to which he belongs and the party which is now occupying the seats of power is here and now ready to state its position with regard to the nationalisation generally and in particular about the civil aviation. Both by my early training and my temperament and also on account of the peculiar circumstances in which I was born and brought up, I am for nationalisation in the sense in which I mean it. I mean by nationalisation the control and ownership by the State of the most essential key industries and also of the most essential goods that are needed for the consumption of the people. If I had the choice and the power to draw up a priority in the matter of nationalisation of these things, I would put the nationalisation of land first, because, I feel, that in a country like India which is not yet fully industrialised and which will continue to be mainly agricultural, nationalisation of land ought to be the first thing that ought to be done. I do not know what views have been expressed by the Congress Party or the members of the Congress Party before with regard to the nationalisation plan. If there is any proof of sincerity of this Party towards the programme of nationalisation, they will, I hope, start with the nationalisation of land first.

Now, Sir, coming to the subject of the nationalisation of aviation, I was rather doubtful about the significance of the phrase 'civil aviation' used in this Resolution. Civil aviation not merely means the operation of air services, in other words, air transport, but it also includes the private flying and training in the Flying Clubs and other subjects. I wonder if it was the intention of the Mover of the Resolution to nationalise all the items that come under civil aviation. He says that he merely wants to confine himself to the operation of air services. I hope the House will not consider me immodest if I say that I claim to be a person who is interested in aviation in more ways than one and particularly in flying. I think I am one of the few Honourable Members of this House who like flying very much, and during the course of my flights I used to take interest in the actual working of the various Companies and also in the machinery which they employed like the aeroplanes and other things. It is a fact that of all the Companies which are

now operating, not merely the Western Companies but also Eastern Companies the Tata Air Lines, which is today called Air India, has got the best record. They have been undoubtedly lucky inasmuch as in their early years they have been supported by an able set of Indian pilots and engineers. There were days when the planes did not have the equipment that a modern plane has. There used to be only one pilot. These days we have two pilots. There was not even wireless equipment as it is today. Even ground organisation was not quite so good as it is today. We must thank the War in a way for the enormous development of the conditions of air transport in this country. A number of aerodromes have come into existence. But still equipments are lacking. The radio equipment and the beam system and other developments have no doubt come. It is undoubtedly true that the State should take complete control of these assets and if I may say so, they should develop this industry. I am one who would support the view that the State should control this industry, even if at the present moment it is not able to take the ownership of the industry. But before the state takes over, I should very much like to know what exactly is going to be the form, and function and powers and the nature of the composition of this State. I am very doubtful as to what it is going to be like. Well, Sir, there are States and States and it often happens in our country that when you say, the government or the state, it merely happens to be controlled by the same set of persons for centuries and centuries. I am one of those who believe that such important things as nationalisation ought to be postponed to the day when we have got a suitable and stable constitution which will command the confidence of the different peoples and communities in this country. I do hope that the Constituent Assembly, if it functions successfully, will be able to establish a State like that. That would be the time when I would take up seriously the question of nationalisation. Otherwise, I feel the talk of nationalisation at the present moment is unreal and impractical. While I am in sympathy with the spirit of the Resolution, I feel I cannot give my entire support to nationalisation of airways, for the reason that the Government having with it all the assets have not been able to help private companies that are operating now successfully under very great handicaps. I doubt very much if Government will be able to take up immediately all these airways and manage them. Take the position of hangars. Hangarage is insufficient. Many companies have ordered for new planes. Many planes have come to this country but there are no hangars to protect them against wind and rain. People think, it does not matter, planes can be in open air. Again there is no place for workshops in most of these aerodromes. That is the position today. Then with regard to technical staff like pilots, ground engineers, radio officers and the like, in spite of the fact that during the war, a number of people have joined R A F and got training, it is difficult indeed to get what may be called commercial pilots who are accustomed to navigation and who might be called all-weather pilots. I know of instances where some of these R A F British pilots who ply these planes have not been able to negotiate the Indian monsoon weather, whereas Indian pilots who have had special training have been able to fly. We find so many difficulties, practical difficulties in the matter of operation. For the present I know what the fate of this Resolution is going to be. But I should like the Government to take into consideration the question of provision of greater facilities, greater number of hangars and also to institute immediately a course of air training so that more pilots may be ready to come if and when the State takes control. I must also stress the question of representation of various communities in the services relating to aviation, pilot service, radio officers, ground engineers and so on and in order to satisfy all communities, it is necessary that representation should be given to all communities in the matter of training so that when the State accepts the responsibility for the whole thing, the necessary personnel may be ready to take their place in the air transport organisation of the Indian State. With these words, I resume my seat.

Dewan Chaman Lal: Mr Deputy President, the debate on this subject has been a very rambling one, but I think every member will be agreed on this that it is a very important subject. Honourable Members have been exercised in developing their own pet theories in regard to the future management of civil aviation in India. It is necessary that they should have done so, but at the same time, we must not forget the fact, as the Honourable the Home Member pointed out that we are no longer in opposition just attempting to waste the time of the House. We have to be concise, we have to give guidance to the government undoubtedly as my Honourable friend Mr Joshi pointed out, but there are moments when a debate can be restricted to the main fundamental issues. The fundamental issues have been so completely confused by some Honourable Members who have spoken on this issue that I am really surprised that even some old hands who ought to know their job better than they have displayed on the floor of the House today should have done so. For instance the very able Lady who spoke and my Honourable friend Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan no doubt made able speeches. The last speech of Maulvi Tamizuddin no doubt condemned the amendment and supported the original Resolution, but in doing so he used the very words of the amendment itself. He said let the Government take time to consider and throw some light upon this question. That is exactly what the amendment has set out to do. You cannot tie the hands of the Government down now and here, to a particular method whether of nationalisation or of control unless the Government has had time to consider the various aspects of this question. My Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh has talked about nationalisation without letting the House know that there are various types of nationalisation. Which type of nationalisation does my Honourable friend want? Does he mean the Russian type of nationalisation or does he mean the British type of nationalisation? Does he mean complete financial control of this industry by State? Does he mean a corporation set up by the Government? I point that out merely for the sake of letting the House know that there are various methods of nationalisation of industry. If you merely say nationalisation without giving time to them, how are they going to take up this matter. I think it is asking your own Government to do something which is not practicable at all. At the same time the Congress is definitely wedded to the principle of nationalisation. Let there be no mistake about it. The Congress manifesto contains the very words which we find in the amendment. The Honourable Lady spoke about the necessity of that single word 'or'—Government owned or Government controlled. These are very words used in the manifesto by the Congress. They are wise in using the phrase because in such large matters they have to choose and they have to go slowly. There are other industries today which may need immediate attention in the matter of nationalisation. I did not hear in the course of the debate one single word about the coal industry, the jute industry and the tea industry. There are surely many industries which have priority in the matter of nationalisation. This morning we discussed the question of British interests in India, such as may be taken over in part payment of the sterling balances being owed to us. There is also that question to be considered. Surely you cannot tie the hands of Government down in the matter of time and priority when such important issues are at stake. That was the real reason why this amendment was put in. Government must have time to consider this matter, time to consider what particular steps they will take in order to develop civil aviation and on what lines they shall develop it. But remember this that there is no distinction in the matter of the principle laid down in the original Resolution and the principle laid down in the amendment. The objective is exactly the same, whether by nationalisation now or by State control now or whether possibly by a combination of the two until the final objective is attained of nationalisation which is the objective of the Congress Party. I submit, therefore that my Honourable friend, realising what the position is should withdraw the Resolution that he has tabled and support the amendment, because it is not only a practical amendment but because the present Government has been in existence for less than three weeks and it gives Government time to consider all these issues that arise out of the problem of nationalisation as connected with industries either nascent, new-born or about to

start or industries that have already been in existence. It is a vast problem. In connection with civil aviation there are certain things to be taken into consideration. I think my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh and the Hon-
-able lady are unnecessarily suspicious. I think they have forgotten that I
were both here on the floor of the House when the last debate on this issue
place. The very first debate on civil aviation took place 20 years ago—I think
on the 26th February 1927 and I think my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi will
remember that. At that time we were against any enterprise of this kind
because the Government of the day was utilising Indian finances for purposes
of a British company called the Imperial Airways, and therefore we said we
would have nothing to do with it. The times have now changed. But I think
they will remember that only the other day, on the 11th March 1946, the ques-
tion was discussed on the floor of this House. The Honourable Sir Gurnunath
Bewoor was speaking on this very question, and I on behalf of the Congress
Party interrupted and asked why the department did not consider the feasibility
of a nationalisation scheme in connection with civil aviation, and his answer was
that Government had considered it but they did not think that at present it was
feasible. Then we pressed him further and asked why they did not adopt it,
and then he gave an explanation as to why it was not done. I mention this for
the reason that we have not changed the position, we stand consistently on
the same basis. But the position of the country has changed. At that time
we could have adopted any weapon at hand to beat down the Government; but
now you have to utilise all your wits and all your brain power and all your
experience and place it at the disposal of this Government in order that they
may go ahead with these large-scale schemes, and go ahead not in an unpractical
manner but go ahead in a practical and sensible manner in order that the benefit
may come back to the people of this country. That, Sir, in short is the issue
and I do not think, as far as I can find from listening to the speeches here, that
there is much difference in our point of view and the point of view of the three
or four critics of this amendment who have raised their voices on the floor of this
House. In view of this and in view of the necessity recognised even by the
critics that Government must have some time to consider this matter and come
to a considered opinion as to what particular policy they shall adopt in the
matter of development of civil aviation, I suggest to Government too that they
should give an assurance to the House that a day will be allotted, when
they have come to a definite conclusion for consideration of this matter. I
take it that it is acceptable to Government that time will be chosen by Govern-
ment for the purpose of discussion of this matter when Government have come
to a definite conclusion as to what particular policy they are going to adopt.
It must be remembered that there are vast issues involved, and they are not
only technical issues. Unlike other countries we unfortunately have not got a
civil aviation industry here, we cannot produce even one little part of an aerô-
plane. When you talk of nationalisation in Holland or whether you talk of
nationalisation in America or the United Kingdom, unlike India, you have got
factories which are feeding this industry, and you do not have to go outside those
countries in order to feed those industries. Therefore it is necessary for Govern-
ment again to consider what subsidiary industries they can set up in order to feed
civil aviation if that is to be taken over by Government.

For these reasons, Sir, I should like my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal
Singh to withdraw his Resolution and accept the amendment.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division Non-Muhammadan
Rural).—Sir, I rise to support the amendment. I confess that I had originally
no intention of participating in the debate but certain observations made by the
Honourable Members tempted me to say a few words. At a certain stage of the
discussion Honourable Members of the Treasury Benches were invited to give
their definite views on the matter, and the Honourable the Home Member in
responding to that invitation made it quite clear that owing to the various
difficult and over-shadowing issues confronting Government they have not yet
been able to take a decision in the matter. The discussion as it has emerged

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar]

from different parts of the House has made it perfectly plain that the preponderating opinion in the House is for nationalisation of civil aviation, although from the views expressed by an Honourable Member of the Muslim League Party in favour of private enterprise, it was not clear whether that party has come to any definite conclusion in regard to this problem. But the majority being in favour of nationalisation, this discussion to my mind assumes a somewhat unreal character. The Honourable Mover's Resolution not only commits this House to a recommendation on a principle, it definitely says that civil aviation should be run as a State department like the State Railways and should not be handed over to private enterprise. Had the Honourable Member simply limited himself to a statement of principle and asked for the support of this House to that principle, much of the discussion would have been shortened. The Resolution has been so worded as to be capable of a double interpretation with a double object in view, one, the support of this House to the principle of nationalisation of civil aviation, and second, which is a more serious thing, in view of present conditions the recommendation of this House for the immediate nationalisation and running of the Civil Aviation Department as a department of the Government of India. My Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall's amendment makes it entirely clear that in so far as the principle of State control or State ownership is concerned he is not equivocal at all, and he has clearly stated his own view and the view of the Congress so far as nationalisation of civil aviation is concerned. And the same is true of the nationalisation of all key industries also. The amendment makes it perfectly clear that so far as the principle underlying the motion is concerned that principle is acceptable to the Mover of the amendment. But what the amendment seeks to do is this. Recognising the difficulties of the situation with which the present Government is faced we give them an opportunity to consider all matters, and in effect that is precisely the view and the appeal made by the Honourable the Home Member on behalf of Government. The issue simply comes to this, assuming that the preponderating opinion in this House is in favour of nationalisation of civil aviation, the question that arises for our immediate consideration is this. Are we or are we not prepared in view of the present circumstances to give Government, taking into full consideration the principle of state control and state ownership, a chance to decide and chalk out a definite policy of action with regard to this matter. That is the one issue that appears to be before the House and when the issue is so clear and so simple I fail to appreciate the variant expressions of opinion expressed from different parts of the House. I found myself quarrelling with my Honourable friend, Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, who has the privilege to belong to the same Party as I do, when he says that the one question which is before this House is whether we are going to decide in favour of nationalisation or not. The issue is simply this—whether we are compelling the Government to take notice of a clearly expressed opinion of this House and in that matter if I might say with best respect to all speakers who spoke on the motion on this particular aspect of the question, it looks as if the Government who are sitting on the Treasury Benches as representatives of the two major political parties of the country by being nominated to these posts by His Excellency the Governor-General or by the British Government and in a technical sense an irresponsible Government.

Sardar Mangal Singh: No one has suggested that.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Nobody has suggested that, I know. It looks as if the Government, that is technically irresponsible, is very much more anxious about its own responsibility than we who want a responsible Government. It is as if the Government wants a little time to come to a decision on this most important and complicated issue, partly on account of the political situation and very largely on account of the financial implications involved. They are faced with so many financial problems. They are asked to take up so many rural development activities, activities for the good of the people. The Railways are asked to undertake construction of new lines and on the top of it this House wants to commit the Government here and now to an immediate execution of

the policy of nationalization. But they are bound to consider the financial implications—how much money they would have to invest in this enterprise, and whether it would be profitable for the Government to invest that much money, and whether it would not be wise to allow the private companies to continue to function for some time more keeping in view of course that this industry is to be nationalized at some future date. All these questions have to be considered by the Government and all that they have asked us is to give them the indulgence of a little time and I am sure, Sir, that in view of the full explanation given by the Honourable the Home Member the Honourable mover of this Resolution will be in a mood to accept the amendment moved by Diwan Chaman Lal.

There is another aspect of the question—a constitutional aspect. I entirely agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, when he observed that the Government Benchers should have, should seek, and should tolerate a bit of guidance from this House. So far as I know the mind of those who occupy the executive posts in this Government, I can say that they are extremely anxious to abide by the wishes of this House and it is that anxiety that has prompted them to ask of this House to give them a little more time. They cannot stand for one single moment the anomaly of this House passing the Resolution and their not being able to bring it into practice immediately. It is precisely with the ultimate object of bringing into action the principle so ably enunciated by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, that they are so very anxious not to allow a Resolution to be passed in a manner which will put this Honourable House into disrepute. For a moment, taking into consideration the present constitutional position, the present Government is trying to function as a national cabinet and the first principle by which a national cabinet ought to abide by is to give the best possible respect to the wishes of the House to which they are responsible. Today it may be a Coalition Government—it is to my mind a composite Government—but in any sense of the word today's Government and the Central Legislature must move in harmony and in unison if we are to solve the various problems which are to be tackled. In no way we should prove that the Central Legislature passed a Resolution which the Government of India, which claims responsibility to the House, was not able to implement. The Honourable the Home Member was entirely right when he said that we have shifted from the other side of the House and when we do that we have to move with caution and with a full sense of propriety as to the correct implications of a particular resolution. To my mind when we pass this Resolution we immediately commit the Government to a definite course of action which the Government today are not in a position to implement, and the Government have very honestly come before us with this view that they have not yet come to a conclusion with regard to this matter and when they come to a conclusion it is certainly open to this House either to pass a censure on them or to accept that opinion if it is acceptable. Under these circumstances, all that the amendment seeks to do is to give the Government a fair chance to give its fullest consideration to this matter. Times there were and the Governments of those days used to say that the opposition is an irresponsible opposition. That was partly correct. I admit that it was not exactly responsible in the sense that if we had to change sides we would not have perhaps immediately taken up the measures which we then advocated. The irresponsibility was there, it was nothing more than responsive irresponsibility. It was because the Government in a sense was an irresponsible Government that it provoked irresponsible criticism. That is not the situation today. We have crossed the floor, and we, who claim to be in charge of the affairs of the country, should be in a position at any time to abide by the verdict of this House, and if today we pass this Resolution in the manner in which it has been brought before this House by Sardar Mangal Singh, we shall be committing ourselves to a position by which we shall be embarrassing ourselves and we shall be embarrassing the Government which commands our trust and confidence and which is today charged with very grave responsibilities. In view of that constitutional position also, I support the amendment of my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lal, and in view further of the expressed opinion of this House in favour of early

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nationalization of civil aviation and other industries, the Resolution loses much of its effect and it has been made clear by hostile parties, if I may say so, also that all that we want by this Resolution is early nationalization. Under these circumstances, the only course which we logically, as a responsible House, could adopt at the present juncture is to support heartily the amendment brought before this House by Diwan Chaman Lall. I am sitting down in the hope that my Honourable friend, Sardar Managat Singh, will rise to the occasion and show his appreciation of the constitutional position by very heartily responding to the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab Muhammadan) Although I run the risk of repeating what has become a trite way of beginning a speech, yet I must state what is a fact that I had no intention of taking part in this debate, but it appears to me that the position taken up by the Honourable the Home Member, so often referred to in the course of speeches which have been made after his speech, and the consequent reference to the constitutional position of the present Government, have so confused the whole matter that one feels tempted to offer a few remarks. Several of the speakers who preceded me, notably my Honourable friend the last speaker, have put forward the theory that the present Government of India is for all intents and purposes a responsible Government, responsible to this House, that is to say removable from office by the adverse vote of this House and that therefore we should not put that Government in the awkward position of being forced to resign by passing this Resolution in spite of the declaration of the Honourable the Home Member and in spite of his request to give the Government a little more time to consider the position, to find their feet and then to come to a decision on the issue raised by the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh.

I think the reference to the constitutional character and position of the present Government is too often made rather lightly. The fact is—although it may not be as pleasant to us as we would wish it to be—that the present Government differs from the previous government only in this—that the members who constitute the Government are members proposed by the major political parties and accepted by His Excellency the Viceroy and His Majesty's Government. That of course is the novel step that has been taken in the direction of reforming the system of government prevailing in this country. But apart from the mode of choosing the members of the Government which was to be constituted there was no change whatsoever. Prior to this also there have been many occasions when in many ways public opinion has been ascertained or borne in mind by those responsible for the selection of members of the Executive Council and suitable candidates have been selected after ascertaining the views of the public in certain ways. Under the constitution a certain number of members had to belong to the I C S. They were chosen in accordance with certain official standards but there used to be always some members outside the cadre of the I C S. Many names can be mentioned. The late Law Member, Sir N. N. Sircar did not belong to the I C S nor did Sir Asoka Roy. Sir Sultan Ahmad was no I C S man and all these people were chosen after considering their status in public and by making sure that their nomination and appointment to the Executive Council would be acceptable to the public or to a very large section of the public and then they were nominated. Now of course a very satisfactory way of making a choice of members for the Executive Council has been adopted. The major political parties were formally consulted. They were given the right to nominate their representatives and when they were nominated they were accepted by the Viceroy and also by His Majesty's Government but they remain under the present Government of India Act, 1935 as members of the Executive Council of the Viceroy holding their office at the pleasure of the Viceroy. There is no difference whatsoever in their status and the status of those whose places they have taken.

Mr. Dutt *President*: The Honourable Member can continue his speech on the next non-official Resolution day.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 11th November, 1946.

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are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.**

5 FEB 1947

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

MONDAY, 11th NOVEMBER, 1946

Vol. VII—No. 10

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 11th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

Mr Mangalore Purushotham Pai, I C S, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT OF INDIAN CATTLE AFTER LAPSE OF DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

†353 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal : Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state the steps Government have taken and propose to take to restrict the export of Indian Cattle after the lapse of the Defence of India Rules ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Restrictions imposed under Rule 84 of the Defence of India Rules on the export of cattle have been temporarily extended by the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1946 (Ordinance No XX of 1946). It is further proposed to undertake legislation during the current session of the Central Legislature to continue these powers, so that restrictions on the export of cattle may be continued under the new law when the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance expires.

FREE POSTAGE FOR NEWSPAPERS WEIGHING UP TO FOUR TOLAS

†354 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal : Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state if Government intend to introduce free postage for newspapers weighing four tolas or less with effect from the next financial year ?

Sir Harold Shobert: The Honourable Member may please await the budget statement of the Honourable the Finance Member.

INCREASE OF WHEAT RATION IN WHEAT EATING PROVINCES

†355 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state if Government intend to increase the ration of wheat in wheat eating Provinces ? If so, when, and to what extent ?

Mr. B. E. Sen: Wheat is allowed to be drawn to the maximum of the basic cereal ration of 12 oz per adult per day in all wheat eating areas except the U P and N-W F P. These provinces have been constrained to limit the quantum of wheat that can be drawn under the cereal group ration because of insufficient supplies of wheat. The Government of India are making every effort to import more wheat.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I have got the authority of Shri Sri Prakasa to ask his questions.

Mr. President: Apart from the question of validity of that authority, they will be taken after the first round is over.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of order, Sir, may I know if priority is not lost, merely because a gentleman is absent and he has authorised another member to ask on his behalf? It may or may not be reached.

Mr. President: It has been the practice of this House, and if a member remains absent and gives authority, all that he can claim is that he should have a chance, but he should not have the liberty of remaining absent and yet have his questions answered in preference to other members who are present. There are a large number of questions and we never reach the list to the end. If therefore a member remains absent, he should have the chance of having them put only after other members who are present are given a chance.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

‡ Could not, however, be reached during question hour

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: But, Sir, the practice has not been that It may be that you rule like that and we accept your ruling, but the practice is that when a member's authority is produced, his name is called

Mr. President: During the last session this practice was followed This question was then discussed a good deal, and it was the unanimous wish of the House also that the members present should have the first chance So I am not calling the questions of Shri Sri Prakasa

MONOPOLY OF CERTAIN FIRMS FOR IMPORTING BRASS SHEETS

†356 *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the number of persons or firms who have sole licences for import of all brass sheets in India,

(b) the approximate income of each of these from commissions received from the monopoly of importing these brass sheets, and

(c) if he is considering the desirability of abolishing this monopoly?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the selected importers who as regular importers of brass sheets were granted special quotas for the importation of brass sheets during 1945 and 1946 The number of such importers in 1945 was eleven and in 1946 is twelve I may add, however, that during the current year licences have also been issued to 42 other importers who were able to secure firm offers within the ceiling prices fixed by the Government Licences will be issued to any person securing such an offer

(b) A statement showing the approximate commission payable to each of the selected importers on the entire quantities allocated to them during 1945 and 1946 is laid on the table

(c) As I have indicated in reply to part (a) of the question, licences are at present being granted to any importer who is able to secure a firm offer from abroad within the ceiling prices fixed by Government There is, therefore, no monopoly in this business

Statement showing Commission Payable to the Selected Importers

[c f part (b) of the question]

Serial No	Name of the firm	Commission payable on 1945 quota of brass sheets	Commission payable on 1946 quota of brass sheets
		Rs	Rs
1	M/s Greaves Cotton Co, Bombay	72,135	96,285
2	" Volkart Brothers, Bombay	41,076	53,655
3	" Grahamas Trading Co., Bombay	13,041	17,395
4	" Francois Klein & Co., Bombay	16,317	21,795
5	" Bombay Co, Bombay	51,660	68,180
6	" E. Suren Co, Calcutta	18,742	24,990
7	" Iron and s, Calcutta	25,294	33,705
8	" Binny & Co., Madras	10,993	14,630

Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

STARRED QUESTIONS

Serial No	Name of the firm	Commission payable on 1945 quota of brass sheets	Commission payable on 1946 quota of brass sheets
9	M/S Gordon Woodroffe, Madras	11,560	15,365
10	„ Dasamal Rajaram, Karachi	7,875	9,415
11	„ Forbes Campbell & Co, Karachi	2,992	3,640
12	„ Ghanshamdas Brother, Karachi		3,255

[Note:—The above commission is merit both for importers and their principals in the U. K. and covers overhead charges.]

LICENCES FOR SALE OF CLOTH, OILSEEDS AND IRON

†357 *Shri Sri Prakasa : Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that licences have still to be taken for the sale of cloth, oilseeds and iron, both wholesale and retail,

(b) if it is a fact that monopolies have been created whereby only a few persons get the whole trade in their hands,

(c) if it is a fact that small traders and pedlars have all been wiped out, and

(d) how long he expects this system to continue, and if he is thinking of bringing relief to those who have been ousted from the trade or are unable to get into it because of the present system of control and licensing?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai. (a) The answer is in the affirmative as regards cotton cloth and oilseeds. Licences in respect of cloth and oilseeds are issued by the Provincial Governments concerned. As regards iron and steel, selling needs no licence. But supplies from producers reach the various consuming areas only through stockholders registered by the Iron and Steel Controller. Provincial Governments may either issue permits to consumers to purchase from stockholders or make any other retailing arrangements they think necessary.

(b) No, Sir. The general principle which the Government of India have adopted in their commodity controls is that, where licensing is necessary, licences should be given to all dealers who were in the business in normal times. There is thus no question of a few persons getting a monopoly. But I admit that this system does prevent, as long as it lasts, the entry of new people into the commodity trade in question.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It will be necessary for Government to continue this system as long as supplies of the commodities in question are considerably less than the demand.

LICENCES FOR SALE OF GRAINS

†358 *Shri Sri Prakasa : Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that licences have still to be taken for the sale of grains;

(b) if it is a fact that monopolies have been created whereby only a few persons get the whole trade in their hands;

(c) if it is a fact that small traders and pedlars have all been wiped out; and

(d) how long he expects this system to continue, and if he is thinking of bringing relief to those who have been ousted from the trade or are unable to get into it because of the present system of control and licensing?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. B. E. Sen: (a) Licences are required to be taken for the sale of food-grains in wholesale quantities under either the Central Foodgrains Control Order or the Provincial Foodgrains Control Orders in areas in which they are in force. Retailers are also licensed in rationed areas for the sale of rationed foodgrains.

(b) and (c) The number of licencees has got to be restricted if a system of controlled distribution is to work smoothly and efficiently.

(d) The system of controlled distribution will last as long as shortage of supplies makes it necessary. I have no information to suggest that the problem is such as to call for intervention by the Provincial Governments to provide relief, but I will make enquiries.

TELEPHONES DISCONNECTED FOR POLITICAL REASONS

†359 ***Shri Sri Prakasa :** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state

(a) the number of telephones that remained disconnected for political reasons at the end of the financial year 1945-46,

(b) if all restrictions passed on political considerations have now been removed and if not, whether Government propose to consider their removal, and

(c) if subscribers are still finding it difficult to obtain new connections or to get their old ones restored, and if so, why?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) None

(b) Government are unaware of any restrictions of the nature indicated by the Honourable Member

(c) Yes, in several places, due to shortage of stores, exchange equipment and the existing overloads on exchanges

SELECT COMMITTEES ON INSURANCE AND OTHER BILLS

†360 ***Shri Sri Prakasa :** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state

(a) if any Select Committees on Bills, elected at the last session of the Assembly were able to meet between that session and the current one and if so, which,

(b) the stage which the amending Bill on Insurance Act has reached, and

(c) when he expects to bring the Bill before the Legislature?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: (a) Three Bills—the Banking Companies Bill, the Insurance (Second Amendment) Bill and the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill—were under reference to Select Committees when the Budget session terminated. None of the three Committees met during the recess

(b) The next stage will be for the Select Committee to meet and report

(c) I understand that my Honourable colleague the Commerce Member proposes to arrange for the Committee to meet in the interval between the termination of the current session and the commencement of the Budget session and to move for the consideration and passing of the Bill as reported by the Select Committee in the course of the Budget session

PRODUCTION OF CLOTH AND YARN

†361 ***Mr. Vadial Lalubhai :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving figures for the production of cloth in yardage and of yarn in pounds, month by month, from the 1st January, 1945 to the 30th September, 1946?

(b) Has the system of working for eight-hours a day affected the cloth and yarn production? If so, to what extent?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A statement showing the production of mill-made cloth and yarn from 1st January, 1945 to 30th September, 1946 has been placed on the table of the House

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(b) Yes, Sir According to the Industry's Committee of the Textile Control Board the extent of the loss is about 700 million yards per annum

Statement showing figures of monthly production of Yarn and Cloth by Indian Mills from 1st January 1945 to 30th September, 1946
(Figures in Millions)

Month	Year	Cloth in yards	Yarn in Lbs.
January	1945	407	139
February	"	317	119
March	"	399	144
April	"	352	129
May	"	388	138
June	"	403	135
July	"	382	138
August	"	391	130
September	"	450	138
October	"	452	144
November	"	342	120
December	"	400	139
January	1946	412	131
February	"	323	120
March	"	347	126
April	"	369	123
May	"	340	119
June	"	361	114
July	"	291	111
August	"	327	109
September	"	298	103
		(Last figure excludes production of 21 mills who have not yet furnished their returns)	(Last figure excludes production of 21 mills who have not yet furnished their returns)

RAIL ROAD COMPANIES IN UNITED PROVINCES

†302 *Mr. Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport kindly state how many Rail Road Companies were formed in the United Provinces ?

(b) Who were the promoters of those companies ?

(c) How many motor buses were provided for each company ?

(d) What is the total cost of these motor buses of each company ?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(e) When were these motor buses allotted and received by these companies ?

(f) Under whose charge are these motors and vehicles now in each company ?

(g) What is the condition of these vehicles now ?

(h) Has any decision been reached to start these companies ?

(i) What action are Government taking to make a start of these companies at the earliest ?

(j) Why has the matter been left undecided for such a long period ?

(k) What expenditure have the promoters incurred in each of these companies ?

When are Government going to decide finally about starting the operation of these companies ?

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali: An attempt has been made to obtain the full information required from the Government of the United Provinces by telegram but as no reply has been received only such material as is available in the Transport and Railway Departments can be given. It is regretted that in some cases this is incomplete.

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table. The Railways were unable to invest capital in those companies, as the grant was not passed by this House in the last budget session.

(g) The 235 vehicles in the custody of the East Indian Railway and the 50 held by the G N I T Co on behalf of the G V T Co, are in excellent condition but the condition of those being looked after by the promoters of the S E, U P Transport Co, Ltd, the Rohilkhand Transport Co, Ltd, and the Gogta Transport Co, Ltd, is believed to be less satisfactory since many of the vehicles have had to be kept in the open.

(h) The Government of the United Provinces are reported to be inclined to organising a tripartite company or companies.

(i) and (j) There are two factors to be considered, the framing of policy by the Government of the United Provinces in regard to the continuance of the original companies or the formation of new companies and the voting down of the grant referred to in the answer to clauses (a) to (f). These are the reasons why the matter was left undecided.

(k) Detailed information regarding expenditure by the original promoters is not available. The second part is answered in the reply to clause (i) and (j).

Statement showing certain Particulars of the Companies originally Formed in the United Provinces under the Rail-road Scheme

Serial No.	Name of Company	Name of Promoters	Number of vehicles bought by the Rlys. for subsequent allotment to the companies	Total cost of vehicles	Date of allotment and receipt	In whose custody vehicles are kept
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	S E, U P Transport Co., Ltd.	Khan Bahadur Gazanfar-Ullah Khan	75	Rs 6,44,446	Not known	Company mentioned in Column 2
2	Rohilkhand Transport Co., Ltd.	Mr Narman Balwant Singh	62	6,03,734	Do	Do
3	Gogra Transport Co., Ltd	Mr R B Mararia	89	7,63,648	Do	Do
4	Hind Roadways, Ltd	Mr Niranjan Lal Ram Chandra.	84	8,79,064	Do	East Indian Railway
5	B ndelkhand Roadways, Ltd	Rai Bahadur Prithvinath Bhargava	66	6,90,700	Do	Do
6	Oudh Roadways, Ltd	Mr Abdul Wahid Khan	85	6,26,212	Do	Do
7	G V T Co., Limited]	Mr A S de Mello	50	4,79,861	Do	G N I T Company
Total			511	46,92,665		

TELEPRINTER NEWS SERVICE FACILITIES FOR CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

363 *Seth Govind Das : Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) the steps that have been taken to give teleprinter news service to the Central Provinces and Berar, particularly at Nagpur and Jubbulpore,

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the absence of the teleprinter news service facilities, the newspapers in these provinces cannot supply the news as quickly as the papers from other places like Bombay, Calcutta, Allahabad, etc., can supply and thus their circulation is affected adversely, and

(c) whether Government propose to take early steps to give teleprinters news service to the Central Provinces and Berar?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to his Question No 126 which was asked in the Assembly on the 8th February, 1946. Applications have been received from a news agency for teleprinter circuits between Nagpur and Bombay and for similar facilities at Jubbulpore, but it is not possible to provide these circuits at present.

(b) The fact is presumably as stated by the Honourable Member.

(c) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Seth Govind Das: Since February last about six months have passed and there has been sufficient demobilisation of the military. May I know when it will be possible for Government to give these lines to the Central Provinces?

Sir Harold Shoobert: It is not very easy for me to make a promise on behalf of the Government, but my information from the Posts and Telegraphs Department and from other departments concerned is that we ought to be in a position to know what demands, among those made, can be met by February or March next year.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how many teleprinters are available in this circle?

Sir Harold Shoobert: I must have notice of that question.

RELEASE OF MILITARY TELEPRINTER LINES BETWEEN ALLAHABAD AND JUBBULPORE FOR CIVILIAN USE

364 *Seth Govind Das : Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that there are six teleprinter lines between Allahabad and Jubbulpore and out of which one is reserved for the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the remainder are with the Military;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of these military lines are to be given up by the military and thereafter to be dismantled, and

(c) whether Government are prepared to direct such lines as are released by the military to civilian's use by handing these over to news agencies which at present have teleprinter lines at other places?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) Three telegraph circuits between Allahabad and Jubbulpore are now available for the use of the P and T Department and others will be transferred to that Department when released by the Defence Department.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The circuits will not be dismantled but will be converted to civil use.

(c) The policy in regard to renting teleprinter circuits to news agencies and other authorities interested is receiving the active consideration of Government.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Government aware that when I last asked this question there was only one line available to the Postal Department and now as the Honourable Member says there are three lines available, will he consider whether these two other lines which have been released after that time, would be given to news agencies and to other applicants immediately?

Sir Harold Shoober: I think the Honourable Member is aware of the very great congestion in telegraph traffic which still prevails. The matter of giving these lines out on lease is one upon which there has to be a general and consistent policy. We have applications for various important lines not only from various Departments of Government but also from quite numerous news agencies, and Government has felt that it is best that we should decide this question as to how they should be allocated and to whom they should be allocated, when it becomes possible to co-ordinate all these applications by getting out a really definite general policy.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that at present there is a monopoly of this line given to the Associated Press and the contract is coming to an end very shortly and is the Government thinking of removing this monopoly and giving these lines to other news agencies as well?

Sir Harold Shoober: The question raised by the Honourable Member is one of policy with which Communications Department is not the only one concerned. The Communications Department is the agent in this matter. But I believe the intention is to give lines as liberally as possible. The monopoly to which the Honourable Member has referred was merely due to the fact that the news agency which holds these circuits was first in the field long before the last war, and during the war it was not possible to give out further circuits. It was not a monopoly created with any particular object.

Seth Govind Das: Will Government now consider the question of removing this monopoly because so many news agencies have sprung up after the war, especially the United Press, which is considered to be one of the best news agencies?

Sir Harold Shoober: As I have already told you, Sir, the whole matter is under consideration, and it is hoped that there will be quite a number of lines available, and I think I am in order in assuring the Honourable Member that there is no question of retaining a monopoly.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any priority list has been prepared and who has prepared it?

Sir Harold Shoober: No priority list has been prepared.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it open to the Government to give away to the American Newspaper agencies in preference to Indian agencies?

Sir Harold Shoober: The Government has the whole matter under consideration, but I think I can say it is not the intention of Government to give any agency preference just because it happens to belong to any particular person.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On what principle is the Government going to allocate these teleprinters to various agencies that may apply?

Sir Harold Shoober: The principle has not yet been decided.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is the Honourable Member aware that the previous member made a recommendation in respect of an Indian agency, the United Press, and how does the matter stand now?

Sir Harold Shoober: I am afraid that that was a matter that had not come to my own notice but as I have said the matter is under consideration and under discussion between the Information and Broadcasting Department and the Communications Department. Perhaps it would be better if I made it clear to the Honourable Members of the House that the matter of policy is one for the Information and Broadcasting Department and not for my department.

Seth Govind Das: May I ask

Mr. President: Next question.

Seth Govind Das: Sir, this is a very important subject. . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. Seven minutes have been already taken over this one question.

PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

365. *Seth Govind Das : Will the Secretary of the Food Department please State :

(a) whether prices of the agricultural produce are fixed by the Government of India ;

(b) whether prices of only a few produces like wheat, paddy, cotton, etc , have been fixed while those of others like ground-nut, teora, etc , have not been fixed ,

(c) whether it is more profitable for the agriculturists to grow teora, etc. ,

(d) whether the produces of which the prices have been fixed have become unprofitable of cultivation and the prices of bullocks, fertilizers, manure, wages and iron and wood for implements have become very high , and

(e) whether Government propose to revise the prices fixed, particularly of wheat and paddy, so that it becomes economic for the agriculturists to grow these ?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Prices of all major foodgrains and some of the cash crops are fixed by the Provincial Governments in consultation with the Government of India

(b) Prices have been fixed for wheat, paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, cotton and ground-nuts, but not for teora

(c) It should not be profitable for agriculturists to grow teora as the demand for it for human consumption is limited

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative Prices of bullocks, etc , have undoubtedly risen

(e) No, Sir Government do not consider the present level of wheat and paddy prices uneconomic

Seth Govind Das : Does the Honourable Member know that certain articles are priced differently in different provinces For instance the price of ground-nut differs in U P and Bombay? Will the Honourable Member see that the prices fixed for the same article are the same in different provinces and there is some co-ordination of prices?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The prices of no articles are the same in all provinces There are certain considerations which have to be taken into account in fixing the prices for different provinces

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad : Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the price index of wheat is higher than the price index of any other commodities mentioned in this question?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad : Will the Honourable Member consider the interests not only of the producers but also of the consumers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: In fixing prices, we take into account the interests of both.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any steps are being taken by the Government of India to increase the price of paddy and rice in accordance with the wishes and recommendations of the Government of Madras?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The whole question was gone into during the food debate and an answer was given by the Honourable the Food Member

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is not a fact that after the food debate was over the recommendations of the Government of Madras were communicated to the Food Department?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The prices of kharif crops were brought under examination only recently and the decision was taken that the prices should remain as they are for the next crop year

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether it is not after the food debate that the representations have been made by the Government of Madras that the price of paddy should be increased by half a rupee per maund and of rice by one rupee per maund

Mr. B. B. Sen: That is not correct

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it before then?

Mr. B. B. Sen: Yes, Sir

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR AND TEXTILES IN INDIA AND QUANTITY AVAILABLE OF KEROSENE OIL

366 *Seth Govind Das Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please lay on the table of the House a statement stating.

(a) the total production of sugar and textiles in India and the quantity of white and yellow kerosene oil available for civilian population,

(b) the basis on which these commodities are allotted and distributed to different provinces and their *per capita* quota for each province, and

(c) whether Government propose to make the allotment, in future to all the Provinces, on then population strength basis after calculating their availability at flat rate *per capita* basis for the whole of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: So far as the question relates to cotton textiles, a statement containing the required information is placed on the table. With regard to sugar and kerosene oil the Honourable Member may kindly address his enquiries to the Departments of Food and of Works, Mines and Power respectively

Statement

(a) In 1945 the total production of textiles in India including handloom production of 1 500 million yards was about 6 200 million yards. Of this 600 million yards were exported and 575 million yards were allotted to Defence requirements. The balance of 5025 million yards was available for the civil population in India. The total production so far this year, up to the end of September, has been 3,068 million yards. Production of yarn for Handlooms has also fallen and against 1,500 million yards of handloom cloth estimated to have been produced in 1945, the production in 1946 may only be 1 300 million yards. In the calendar year 1946 about 400 million yards will go for export and about 80 million yards for Defence requirements. A balance of about 4 900 million yards should therefore be available for the civil population in India in the calendar year 1946 if the present rate of production continues.

(b) The quantity available for the civil population is distributed to Provinces and States on the basis of the following *per capita* quotas:

Madras	12 yards per head
Bombay	18 " " "
Bengal	12 " " "
U P	19½ " " "
Punjab	18 " " "
Bihar	12 " " "
C P	12 " " "
Assam	11 " " "
N W F P	18 " " "
Sind	18 " " "
Orissa	11 " " "

(c) The Government of India propose to call an inter-Provincial conference to consider whether the present Provincial *per capita* quotas should be modified.

COMMUNAL CONSIDERATIONS IN ALLOTMENT OF CONTRACTS FOR EUROPEAN STYLE TEA ROOMS AT TANDO ADAM STATION ON N. W. RAILWAY

†367. *Seth Yusuf Abdool Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that communal aspect is being considered in allotment of contracts for European Style Tea Rooms in the North Western Railway?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(b) Is it a fact that at Tando Adam Station in the Karachi Division of the North Western Railway such a contract was at first given to a Muslim contractor who was already a contractor for European Style Tea Rooms in the Division, but later his contract was cancelled in favour of a Hindu vendor on the plea that the town had a majority of Hindus?

(c) Are Government aware that the General Manager, North Western Railway Lahore, admitted at a meeting held on the 1st August, 1946, of the North Western Railway Advisory Committee, that injustice has been done to the Muslim contractor? If so, what action has been taken by the Railways to reinstate the former contractor?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) No

(b) The contract for working the European Style tea-room at Tando Adam was first granted to Mr. Mohammad Nazir Khan, vending and catering contractor at that station, but before this contractor actually started work the matter was discussed by the Karachi Railway Local Advisory Committee when it was stated that as the passengers using the station consisted mainly of Hindus the tea-room should cater mainly for Hindus. The contract was subsequently transferred to Messrs. Wadhu Mal Fateh Chand & Bros.

It appears that the change was made as a result of the views expressed at a meeting of the Local Advisory Committee, but further information as to the reasons which led to the change of contractor is being called for on receipt of which the case will be reviewed and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The relevant extract from the précis of the 92nd meeting of the N W R Local Advisory Committee Karachi, is as follows:

"The history of the case was explained and the Chairman stated that, while he could not consider cancelling the existing arrangements at this stage, he did agree that the communal considerations should not enter into such matters and this policy would be kept in view in future."

With regard to the second part of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to part (b) of my reply to his question.

RUNNING OF A FAST TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI AND MADRAS

368 *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddhar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) whether in the last meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways a promise was made by the Administration to run a fast train between Madras and Delhi twice or thrice a week, from the 1st October, 1946;

(b) whether any such train has been introduced, and, if not, why not,

(c) if the train has not yet been introduced, when it is proposed to do so, and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to revert to pre-war timings in respect of the principal through trains on the various Railway systems, and, if so, when it is proposed to effect such reversion?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a), (b) and (c) At the meeting of the Central Advisory Council on the 13th April, 1946, a hope was expressed by the Government spokesman that it might be possible to inaugurate a fast bi-weekly mail service between Delhi and Madras by October 1946, but no promise was given. The intention was to start this service when adequate and suitable stock became available. Unfortunately the expectation that such stock would be available by October 1946 has not been realised. Moreover, the Railway Administrations consider,—and Government agree,—that their primary obligation, as more stock becomes available is to restore services which were curtailed during the war and for which the public demand is urgent, rather than to introduce new services which were not in existence before the war. Further consideration of the proposal has accordingly been deferred for the time being and the Railways concerned have been instructed to review the position sometime towards the end of this year with a view to seeing whether the service

can be started from next April. In the meantime, it is not possible to give a definite date by which the Service will be introduced. Much will depend on the availability of suitable stock and the ability of the Railways to restore pre-war train services.

(d) There are a number of factors which militate against a complete reversion to pre-war time-tables on the various Railway systems, among them being, heavy loads of trains, poor quality of coal and heavily taxed engines.

Improvements in speeds will be made as rehabilitation progresses but Government considers that under conditions as they are at present and which are likely to continue for some time, it would be unwise to lay down ambitious schedules which experience shows cannot be maintained.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if all these considerations were not before the Honourable Member's predecessor when the suggestion or promise was made that the new service would start on the 1st October 1946?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: All these considerations were before him but no promise was made.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If not a bi-weekly service, will the Honourable Member start at least one fast service per week immediately?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is very difficult for me to make a promise on the floor of the House today. I have stated at length what the difficulties are but we shall try and meet the wishes of the House in this matter.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How far has the Honourable Member succeeded in trying to speed up the existing service from Madras to Delhi?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We have made some improvement in that direction already.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Any considerable reduction in the number of hours?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Quite a considerable number of hours. I think the contemplated service will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 36 hours.

CRY OF 'HINDU PANI' AND 'ISLAMI CHAI' AT RAILWAY STATIONS

369. ***Mr. Manu Subedar** (a) Has the Honourable the Railway Member authorised or permitted the cry of "Hindu Pani" and "Islami Chai" at Railway stations, or has it been spontaneous?

(b) Have Government considered whether such distinction is necessary and should be permitted?

(c) Has it been brought to the notice of Government that no such distinction is made with regard to "Paan", biscuits, fruits, Mithai, toys, books, magazines and newspapers and other items sold to passengers?

(d) Have Government ascertained the sense of the Central Advisory Council for Railways and the Standing Finance Committee on this topic? If not, will they do so at an early date?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Government have not authorised the use of these cries which have been spontaneous.

(b) Government do not consider such distinctions necessary or desirable. They have already issued instructions to Government Railways that the current practice on railways of watermen and vendors of tea, sweetmeats, etc., attaching to the oral announcement of their wares a communal adjective such as "Hindu" and "Mussalman" should cease forthwith.

(c) Government are aware that similar communal adjectives are not used by other vendors on railway premises.

(d) In view of the action already taken there is no necessity to refer the matter to either body.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that the people who shout 'Hindu Pan!' are servants of the Railway Administration and is it not, therefore, possible that the late Government of which this Government is the successor deliberately designed these distinctions to be shouted like this?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I should not like to go into a post-mortem examination.

Seth Govind Das: Sir, there is one more distinction prevailing on these railway lines and that is European and non-European food. On many lines there are more restaurant rooms which serve European food than Indian food. Will the Honourable Member consider the question that when there are more travellers who take food of Indian style, the food of European style should either be abolished or the food of Indian style should also be provided at various trains as well as stations?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I think my Honourable friend has made quite a little speech on the subject. The whole matter is going to be considered by the Central Advisory Committee quite shortly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Now that the Government has sent out these pre-emptory instructions for these sort of cries to cease, will the Honourable Member undertake and assume this House that he will send for a periodical report, say, at the end of every four weeks, to see that in spite of Government's instructions this thing does not go on?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I accept the suggestion of the Honourable Member.

Lt.-Col. Dr J. O. Chatterjee: Is it not a fact that it is a question of supply and demand and that these cries arise because people demand 'Hindu Pan!' and 'Muslim Chai'?

Mr. President: Next question.

ELIMINATION FROM DOCUMENTS BY HIGH COURTS OF A PARTY'S CASTE, SUB-CASTE AND RELIGION

370 *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Does the Honourable the Law Member propose to issue a circular to High Courts or take such other steps as he thinks proper for the elimination out of every document describing a party his sub-caste, caste or religion?

(b) Are Government aware that no such practice exists anywhere in the world and that other means of identification of the parties described are found than the mention of caste or religion?

(c) Have Government asked for or received expressions of public opinion on this subject as to whether this is necessary?

(d) Have Government considered the problem? If so, what is their conclusion?

(e) Do Government propose to invite the views of Provincial Governments as to whether it is necessary in communications from or to Government, or any representation or notification that the caste or religion of a party mentioned should be indicated?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: (a) No. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that in all documents emanating from a court the description of a person referred to therein is supplied by the party at whose instance the document is issued and is not susceptible of variation by the court.

(b) Government have no information on the subject.

(c) No.

(d) Nothing describable as a problem appears to me to arise.

(e) Government do not consider that a reference to Provincial Governments on this subject would serve any useful purpose, and I would point out that there is nothing whatever to compel a person addressing a letter or representation to Government to specify his caste or religion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (b), since this Government is not aware of the practice in other countries, will they make an attempt to find out that on applications, on court documents and on transfer of property and other documents in other countries a man's religion or caste is not mentioned, whereas in India it appears to be the general practice that the description that a man is a Hindu inhabitant of such and such a street or he is a Muslim inhabitant of such and such a city is always mentioned? Will Government make this inquiry and consider the problem which does exist?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: No inquiry is necessary for the simple reason that the Civil Procedure Code does not provide for the mention of caste or religion or anything of the sort. What the Civil Procedure Code does require is a description of a person. It is due to custom or usage that a person's caste or religion is described. It is not required under any law of the land. Therefore, I feel that no useful purpose will be served by making an inquiry as to whether in other countries the description of a person requires the mention of his caste, sub-caste or religion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member assure this House that this is not required under the rules of the High Court and under the rules of the District Courts, and that when a person goes to affirm his signature before the Registrar of the High Court he is not called upon specifically to state his caste or religion?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: Yes, Sir, in certain provinces there are some courts in which a person is required to mention his caste and religion, but I do not find it from the Civil Procedure Code that it is at all necessary.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that in the United States of America and also in the United Kingdom

Mr. President: I think there has been sufficient discourse on this subject.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: May I ask a supplementary question, Sir? Arising out of part (a), is the Honourable Member aware that the omission of the mention of religion by a party to a document may later on lead to complications with regard to inheritance law and therefore it is necessary that religion should be mentioned?

Mr. President: That is a matter for argument. Next question.

HEAVY PROFITS TO TEXTILE FACTORIES ON SALE OF CLOTH

371 ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state by what process prices of cloth were fixed in India?

(b) Are Government aware that textile factories were permitted to make very heavy profits per loom, as much as ten times the pre-war profit and that even now the profit per loom is very high?

(c) What steps are Government taking to have an automatic adjustment of this question, instead of infrequent revisions of prices?

(d) What has been the total production of cloth in India during the last five years and how much has been taken by Government?

(e) How is that Government's offtake after the war for certain kinds of cloth still continuing?

(f) How much is now being taken and for what purposes?

(g) Have Government examined carefully that the purposes for which cloth is still being taken, are not for the production of articles some of which are being disposed of by Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: (a) The basis for fixing prices of cloth and yarn is a schedule of realisation multipliers for certain key counts. These realisation multipliers cover all the various charges involved, such as cost of cotton, all manufacturing charges from the mixing of the cotton and the spinning up to and including weaving, cost of finishing and packing, overhead

expenses of mills and profit margin. This schedule of realisation multipliers is subjected to percentage changes from time to time by negotiations between the Government of India and the industry.

(b) The schedule as it stands at present is believed to allow larger profits on cloth and yarn of fine counts than on cloth and yarn of medium and coarse counts, on which the profits are at present relatively small. In fact, there is reason to believe that margins of profit are very small on coarse cloth, and that this is one reason for the fall in production of coarse cloth. Profit margins of course vary in proportion to the efficiency of the management and condition of machinery of each individual mill. The whole question of cloth costs is complicated and is at present actively under consideration.

(c) Automatic adjustment of prices would be extremely difficult for the following reasons:

(i) Conditions of work vary from mill to mill.

(ii) Costs of manufacture (consisting of the cost of raw cotton, wages, stores, fuel, overhead costs, etc.) vary not only from region to region but also from mill to mill.

(iii) These elements in costs are not constant for any predictable length of time, they depend on local conditions, transport charges, etc., and also on the actual number of looms and spindles worked in any month, which varies according to absenteeism, which is of course uncontrollable and unpredictable.

(d) The total production of cloth (inclusive of handloom production) during the five years 1941-45 was in the aggregate about 80,000 million yards, out of which about 3,000 million yards were purchased by Government for the Defence Services and about 1,900 million yards in connection with the Standard Cloth Scheme.

(e) Government's offtake of cloth now is for the requirements of the peace-time establishment of the Defence Services.

(f) Government's offtake during the current year, which is for the aforesaid Defence Service requirements, will probably be about 80 million yards.

(g) Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that when Government fixed the price on the basis of cost plus, the millowners produced certain kinds of cloth more because it paid them a little better and there was a glut of such things as curtain cloths which were sent to villages. Will Government not only control the price of cloth but the qualities, which any particular manufacturer should manufacture?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That problem has already arisen in regard to certain varieties of cloth and the whole problem is under active examination.

Mr. President: Next question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask a supplementary question? Is it not a fact that the prices of handloom cloth have soared high because the coarse cloth is not available?

Mr. President: That is a different problem altogether.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is with respect to price control, Sir.

Mr. President: Next question has been called.

MILITARY TRAFFIC ON RAILWAYS

372 ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how much military traffic on the Railways is still there in terms of (i) special trains per day, (ii) the number of tank wagons for the use of the military; and (iii) the number of ordinary wagons for the use of the military traffic?

(b) Is any priority being given to military transport? If so, of which class and why?

(c) Is there any traffic that can be called demobilisation traffic, and is it in connection with the Indian forces or non-Indian forces?

(d) What is the total number of non-Indian troops in India now, and how many of them are to be sent away in the course of the current official year?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) (i) The latest figures available are for the month of September, 1946. These figures show that an average of 20 Military trains per day were run. These include three Military Personnel trains, 14 Military Mail trains, one Stores train, one Vehicle train and one Ambulance train.

(ii) Five tank wagons (one broad gauge and four metre gauge) are allotted to the Military for their exclusive use. In addition to these, during the three months August, September and October, 1946, a total of 704 broad and metre gauge tank wagons were loaded with military traffic.

(iii) Ordinary wagons are not allotted for the exclusive use of the Military. Military demands for ordinary wagons are met from wagons available on railways.

No record is maintained of the number of such wagons loaded daily for the Military.

(b) Yes. Military traffic carried by goods train is ordinarily accorded the following priorities—

(1) Movements of military foodstuffs—Class II(a)—This is the same as the priority accorded to movements of Civil foodstuffs sponsored by Provincial Governments.

(2) Movements of military stores, other than foodstuffs, and movements of military stores from Military Depots—Class III.

(3) Movements of military stores from Military Depots carried out with the object of clearing and closing down such Depots—Class IV.

In addition, movements for which operational urgency is claimed, which are now very few, are accorded Class I priority on specific application.

Priority schedules issued by the Transport Department cover all goods movements in wagon loads and military goods traffic must necessarily find a place in such schedules. Priorities accorded to Military and Civil movements are in keeping with their relative importance and general urgency.

(c) Yes Sir. An appreciable amount of traffic is devoted every month to the moves of Indian and non-Indian troops in connection with demobilization. The number of Indian troops moved in connection with demobilization in September was approximately 80,000 and the number of special trains arranged for these moves was 28. For non-Indian troops, the approximate number was 4,000 and no special trains were arranged.

(d) The Railway Department are not in possession of the figures asked for in this part of the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that during the last session the Honourable Member's predecessor assured this House that only 27 trains were being run daily as military specials, now my Honourable friend says, they are 20 trains.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The number varies.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether it is a fact that some of these trains go partly empty and that civilians are not admitted in them?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: No, Sir, that is not the information of the Government. I can assure my Honourable friend that we are pressing it upon the attention of the Defence Department, that if ever any accommodation is available even on these trains, it should be made available for civilian travelling public.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that civilian population was treated like dirt during the war period, is it not high time that Government considered whether priorities to military traffic should be discontinued? In fact the Honourable Member's predecessor assured the House that these priorities will not now be given.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not quite sure whether any assurance was given by my predecessor. All I can say is that these priorities operate.

absolutely normally and I do not find any difficulty in the way of civilian population on account of these priorities

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member enquire whether Disposals Directorate are not taking too much of these priorities to the prejudice of the movement of coal and other essential articles for the civilian population?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: No, Sir

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Member aware that apart from special trains, even in ordinary trains where compartments are reserved for the military, ordinary civilians are not allowed?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is quite possible. If any such instance is brought to my notice, I shall institute an enquiry

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member at least see to it that while these military personnel get into particular compartments or carriages reserved for them, they do not encroach upon those that are reserved for ordinary civilians?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Well, Sir, I shall note that point and bring it to the notice of the administrations concerned

SUPERSESSION OF COMPETENT ASSISTANTS IN RAILWAY BOARD BY OUTSIDERS AND JUNIORS

373. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government are aware of the fact that senior and competent Assistants in the Railway Board's office are dissatisfied on account of their supersession by outsiders and juniors?

(b) Is it a fact that the genuineness of this grievance was recognised by the Directors of the Board and that it was decided by them that the recent promotions to supervisory posts should be reviewed?

(c) Is it a fact that this decision of the Directors was turned down, without any valid reasons, by two members of the Board, and that no reference was made to other members of the Board or the Chief Commissioner of Railways?

(d) Is it a fact that the Financial Commissioner is never consulted in such matters and that the Directors and Secretary of the Board are the final authority on all questions relating to the staff of the Railway Board office? If so, why was a departure made in this instance?

(e) What steps are proposed to be taken to remove the legitimate grievances of the staff in this matter?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Certain representations from senior Assistants have been received in connection with promotions. Promotion to all posts in the Board's office, particularly to supervisory posts, is, however, made by selection and not by seniority, it is also permissible to draw upon outside sources for filling posts of Superintendents and Assistants-in-Charge, as well as Assistants

(b) A meeting of the Directors recommended by a majority that certain promotions should be reviewed, but this did not imply recognition of the claims of senior men

(c) Two Members of the Board considered the recommendation of the Directors. It has been decided that promotions should be made on the recommendations of a small committee consisting of three Directors and the Secretary, Railway Board. It was not necessary for the other Members of the Board to have seen the papers, but the Chief Commissioner has subsequently seen them.

(d) The Financial Commissioner is consulted where necessary, the Secretary, Railway Board and not the Directors is the authority in charge of the staff of the Board's office and he exercises the necessary control under the supervision of the Board. The last part does not arise

(e) It is not admitted that the staff have any legitimate grievance. As I have already stated, a small committee has been set up who will make recommendations for promotion and if as a result any changes in the existing arrangements are indicated, the matter will be considered afresh.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if these selection posts are being reviewed by the Honourable Member himself from time to time inasmuch as there is much scope for nepotism in this matter?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: All the higher categories come up to me but I cannot possibly undertake to review all the selection posts that are being considered by the various administrations because their number is large.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the posts of General Managers are selection posts?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, they are. These higher posts come to me straight.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that some posts of General Managers will soon fall vacant? In view of the fact that there are very few Indian General Managers at present, will the Honourable Member investigate into this matter and see that in filling up the vacancies that would arise shortly, Indians are not overlooked?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I can assure my Honourable friend on that point. I shall see to it that no Indian is overlooked. I assure him that even now I am taking every conceivable step to see that no Indian is overlooked.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance that in the case of persons who are serving already in railways which have been taken over from companies recently, the priorities that have been given under the companies' regime whether they were right or wrong will not be continued?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid I must ask for notice. But there is one little point on which I can say this much. It is rather a difficult question. Certain lists of seniorities were made out by the companies, when these administrations were taken over by the Government, naturally we had to adopt those lists. It is difficult for us now to re-open these lists and go into the question of seniority as it was determined by the companies before we took over these railways.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask whether at least with respect to higher grades, he will review the question of seniority in all cases of railways which have been taken over by the Government from companies?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As I have already said the principle is this, that wherever selection posts are concerned, seniority is overlooked if necessary.

CORRUPTION IN THE DISPOSALS DEPARTMENT

374. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether Government are aware that there is widespread corruption in the Disposal Department? ;

(b) If so, what steps are being taken to prevent corruption and the disposal of Government material at low prices?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Allegations to this effect, mostly anonymous, have been made from time to time, but none has so far been so specific or supported by such *prima facie* evidence as to justify formal enquiry.

(b) Government are fully alive to the necessity of eliminating corruption wherever it exists. In the case of the Disposals Organisation, in particular, an Enquiry Committee has recently been set up and its Terms of Reference include *inter alia*

(1) to advise whether the methods of disposal in themselves are suited to producing results which are (i) in the interests of the public, (ii) expeditious

“(2) to advise whether, in their view, there are definite indications of corruption

The Government will take such action in the light of the Committee's recommendations as may be necessary both as regards revision and methods of disposal and organisational changes and in the further investigation of any particular cases brought to notice. Copy of a Resolution setting up the Disposals Enquiry Committee is placed on the table

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

No

New Delhi, the 11th October 1946

RESOLUTION

In order to have the advantage of some outside study of the problems and difficulties so far encountered in the disposal of war surpluses, the Government of India have decided to appoint a small Committee which will operate on the terms of reference below —

(i) To review the problems of the Department and to advise whether the organization, personnel, and class of officer and staff are adequate and suitable for handling these problems

(ii) To advise whether the methods of disposal in themselves are suited to producing results which are

(a) in the interests of the public

(b) expeditious

(iii) To advise whether, in their view, there are definite indications of corruption

(iv) And in general to suggest methods of improving the performance and standards

2 The Committee will be called the DISPOSALS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE and will consist of Sir Maurice Gwyer and Dewan Bahadur Sir T. Vijayaraghavachari. Mr. S. Bhoothalingam, O.B.E., I.C.S., will act as Secretary to the Committee

3 It is expected that the Committee should be able to report within one month

ORDER—Ordered that this Resolution be communicated to all Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioner, Delhi, all Departments of the Government of India (including the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, and Political Department) and the Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat

2 ORDERED also that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated the 14th October 1946

M. W. M. YEATTS,

Secretary to the Government of India

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Have Government fixed up the terms of reference and the constitution of this Committee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, the terms of reference and the constitution have both been settled and I think have been announced

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if Government will be willing to set up influential non-official committees in each centre of disposal to be associated with the Government Department, to give them advice with respect to all major disposals beyond a particular value?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I expect the report of this committee to be available to Government in a very short time, and the suggestion made by the Honourable Member and other suggestions of a similar kind will be taken into account when we examine the report

Seth Govind Das: Are there any non-officials on this Committee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Committee consists of only two persons, Sir Maurice Gwyer and Sir T. Vijayaraghavachari, both of whom are non-officials

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if the allegations about corruption were made in writing?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Anonymous letters have been received.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Did Government take any steps to make inquiries regarding the finances of these particular officers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Such consideration as these anonymous letters deserved was given to the matters raised in them.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Will the Committee be able to examine witnesses? If so, will the evidence of witnesses in such examination be taken in a privileged place?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I understand the procedure of the Committee is going to be this. They have examined a large number of officials who hold responsible positions in this particular Directorate, and the further step they are going to take is to meet Chambers of Commerce, business associations of various kinds, and hear their views.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a roving Committee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: They mean to make an extensive tour.

EMPLOYMENT OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS IN INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

375. *Seth Sukhdev. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how many officers who have already reached the age of 55 are still being continued in service in the Departments under his control?

(b) How many persons were re-employed during the war and still being continued? How many of these superannuated men were specialists and technical men?

(c) When will the services of these men be dispensed with?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Fourteen.

(b) Thirteen. Out of these five are technical men.

(c) The services of superannuated officers will be terminated as soon as possible within a period of about a year.

All of them except two will be dispensed with by 30th May 1947 and the services of the remaining two will be dispensed with by December 1947.

EXPRESS TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI AND MADRAS

376. *Mr. R. O. Morris: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please indicate when the promised new Express Train will run between Delhi and Madras?

(b) Will air-conditioned coaches be provided on the Express train?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply I have just given to parts (a), (b) and (c) of Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No. 368.

(b) The current proposals do not contemplate the provision of air conditioned accommodation. The matter will however be considered in connection with the general question of provision of air-conditioned coaches on the various routes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As the first and second class coaches very often go empty will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of reducing the number of these carriages in this train and increasing the accommodation for third class passengers by increasing the number of coaches?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The question will be examined according to the requirements of the travelling public.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: In view of increased facilities of travelling by air will Government consider the advisability of discontinuing air-conditioned first class coaches?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is a matter of larger policy which I do not think can be discussed by way of supplementary questions and answers.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the last railway budget debate this House expressed more than once the view that it was against increasing any facilities for upper class passengers, specially those who travel in air-conditioned coaches?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not quite sure that this question was specifically dealt with during the budget debate. It is quite possible that a certain suggestion may have been made, but, as I have said before, it is a question of policy and there will be plenty of time for the House to discuss it at length in the budget session and give us a definite policy. If it is desired to abolish the upper classes I am quite prepared to abolish them.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Meanwhile do not spend anything on them.

Mr. President: Order, order, next question.

PENALTY ON REFUND OF FARE ON UN-USED RAILWAY TICKETS

377. *Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that in case a passenger is not able to travel by a particular train for which he has purchased a ticket, he is allowed to deliver back the ticket and get a refund on payment of only one anna as penalty, on the East Indian Railway,

(b) whether a deduction of 10 per cent is made on the fare paid if a ticket had been purchased a few days earlier and the reservation of seat made, when the passenger is not able to utilise the ticket,

(c) the reasons for this difference of treatment between the two categories; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps so that the latter class of tickets may also be accepted on payment of the penalty of only one anna?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) If a passenger is unable to travel for want of room in a particular train, he can obtain at the station refund of the fare paid without any deduction, provided he gives up the ticket within three hours after the departure of the train. When for any other reason a passenger is unable to travel, he can, if he has not reserved accommodation, obtain refund of the fare paid less a clerkage charge of one anna, provided he gives up the ticket within two hours after the departure of the train.

(b) Yes

(c) The distinction is made primarily with the object of preventing abuses such as speculative reservations.

(d) The present practice is intended to meet prevailing circumstances. When the pressure on reserved accommodation eases and the incentive for making spurious reservations has ceased to exist, Government intend to consider some relaxation of the rule under which a 10 per cent deduction is levied in cases of refunds following cancellation of reserved accommodation. In the meantime to provide for genuine cases of hardship, Railway Administrations have discretion to waive the levy of the 10 per cent deduction where circumstances warrant.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that if the application for refund is not made within the prescribed hours, as the Honourable Member said, it takes the Railway Department about six months to return the money?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I think those who want a refund should be a little quicker than they generally are.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has it come to the notice of the Honourable Member that the provision for the exemption of the deduction of 10 per cent has been abused by the railway servants themselves by purchasing tickets for long distances and then returning them and getting exemption? If not, will he kindly make inquiries?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Certainly, Sir But I should like some specific instances to be brought to my notice

VALUE OF GOODS LOST IN TRANSIT ON RAILWAYS

378 *Pandit Balkrishna Sharma. Will the Honourable Member for Railway be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate value of goods lost in transit on various Railways, the amount claimed and the amount refunded, and

(b) the reasons for such losses ?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) A statement showing the net amount of claims paid by all Class I Railways for loss, destruction or deterioration of goods for the last five years is placed on the table Similar information in respect of claims repudiated is not available

(b) The principal factors contributing towards these losses are

(i) Heavy expansion of traffic, leading to congestion in goods and parcel offices and in yards, and to difficult operating conditions

(ii) Inferior quality of packing used

(iii) Low standard of marking and labelling of packages

(iv) Increase in thefts due to general scarcity, rise in the level of prices, and bad lighting on account of "black-out" conditions

(v) Indifferent calibre of some of the temporary staff recruited to handle the heavy war-time traffic

Statement showing the net amount of claims paid by Class I Railways

Year	Net amount paid Rs
1941-42	7,80,712
1942-43	14,45,989
1943-44	39,22,656
1944-45	1,13,60,910
1945-46	1,59,18,565

NOTE.—These figures refer to year ending 31st March

Mr. Mann Subedar: In view of the fact that Government servants or ex-railway servants are alleged to be concerned in these thefts, will the Honourable Member set up a special machinery for investigation and allay the serious discontent which exists among the public?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Watch and Ward are as active as they should be, and I can assure the Honourable Member that we are trying to strengthen our Watch and Ward in order to catch out those to whom my Honourable friend referred

Mr. Mann Subedar: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member is unable at this stage to give us the amount of claims made and rejected by railway administrations, may I know whether he has not received representations from the business community from time to time as to the unsatisfactory character of the responsibility of the railway administrations for losses of goods sent by railway?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: There is no doubt that complaints are received from time to time But my Honourable friend ought to feel satisfied that the amount paid by the railways in 1941-42 was something like seven lakhs 80 thousand odd and now it has risen to one crore and 59 lakhs odd. Can we pay more?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if any policy has been evolved to appoint Superintendents of Police from Government service? Take them on a tenure basis for Watch and Ward

Mr. President: What is the question?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My Honourable friend said he is trying to improve the Watch and Ward system of the Railways so as to prevent the losses on Railways

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may ask for any information, but he is going to make suggestions

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If my language is suggesting suggestions I will try to make an amendment. May I ask the Honourable Member to inform the House if there is a proposal to have Superintendents of police serving in the Government transferred to the Railway Department for Watch and Ward once in every three years on a tenure basis?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: According to my information, on some Railways there are Superintendents of Police working in the Watch and Ward, and on others they are not

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Will the Government consider the desirability of assessing these losses in accordance with the actual complaints made and justified, or the capacity of Government to pay? Whether it is 16 lakhs or 16 crores is immaterial. If I have lost money or goods, it should be paid. Will Government kindly reconsider its policy?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Government try to do justice in every case, and I assure the Honourable Member that the Government will continue to do justice to everybody

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: The Honourable Member informed the House that the Watch and Ward Department were working satisfactorily. Would he kindly arrange to make available to the House the number of cases instituted as a result of their activities and the number of successful convictions?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I should like the Honourable Member to put down a question

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if it has come to his notice that there are a number of bogus parcels and bogus complaints? Parcels are first sent without indicating what they contain and later on claim is made for some other article which was actually not sent. Will the Honourable Member kindly see to it that proper investigation is made to see what exactly the article is before parcels are accepted?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: No parcel is accepted by the Railways until the Railway officers have satisfied themselves that it contains what the declaration says it contains

RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOODS ENTRUSTED TO ONE RAILWAY FOR DESPATCH TO A STATION ON ANOTHER RAILWAY

379 *Pandit Balkrishna Sharma : Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state .

(a) whether it is a fact that when goods are entrusted to one Railway for a station that happens to be on another Railway, the original Railway takes no responsibility for the goods if lost;

(b) whether on complaint for loss of goods, the original Railway refers the sender to the Railway to which station the goods were despatched and declines to take any further action in the matter, and

(c) whether Government propose to instruct the Railways originally receiving goods for despatch, to hold themselves responsible for the tracing of the goods if they are lost, and ensuring the payment of costs to the sender?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) No. The Railway which books a consignment for a station on another railway remains responsible as the contracting

railway, although each railway over which the consignment passes is responsible for the safe transport of the consignment while in its custody

(b) On receipt of a complaint for loss of goods, the forwarding railway refers the applicant to the railway on which the destination station is situated, which railway is responsible for accepting and dealing with the claim on behalf of all the railways concerned. Each railway, however, takes action to trace the passage of the consignment over its own length

(c) Government do not propose to vary the present practice which they believe to be the most convenient to the trading public, since it is consignees who normally hold Railway Receipts and prefer claims and they can deal more conveniently with the destination Railway

DISPOSAL OF JEEP MOTOR CARS

390 *Pandit Balkrishna Sharma : Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the number of Jeep motor cars that were in the possession of Government at the close of the war,

(b) the manner in which they were disposed of or are being disposed of, and

(c) the prices at which they have been sold and the conditions, if any, that were attached as regards their further sale by firms that bought the cars from Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) 10,508

(b) Surplus Jeeps declared to the Disposals organisation have been disposed of partly by sale to Provincial Governments and Indian States for security and Famine Relief purposes, partly by inclusion in bulk sales of quantities of various vehicles, and partly by advertised tender, auction, or negotiation of small quantities to different parties

(c) The prices varied with the condition of Jeeps sold. Jeeps in good condition were generally sold for Rs 4,000 each. Jeeps in fair condition fetched Rs 2,250 to Rs 3,000, and those in poor condition Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000

In the case of fair and poor vehicles, the wide range of conditions within the broad grouping has accounted for the considerable variation in prices

No conditions governing resale were attached in any transaction

POLICY re RETENTION OF ROYAL ENGINEERING OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN RAILWAYS

381 *Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railway please state if it is a fact that Royal Engineering Officers are employed in Transportation and Engineering branches of the Railway although they are essentially military Officers?

(b) Will Government state their future policy as to retention of these Royal Engineering Officers in Railway Services and state whether their services will be returned to the military?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes. The employment of a limited number of Royal Engineer Officers in civil employ, including the various branches of Railway service, is a part of the general set-up of the Army. The terms governing their employment on railways will be found in Appendix I to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is in the *Library of the House*.

(b) Government have not so far considered the question of the future drafting of Military Officers into Railway employ. As regards such officers already in Railway employ, their return to military service has not been considered, while those whose services were replaced at the disposal of the Army during the war and are still with the Army, have been given an opportunity of returning to Railway employ provided they are considered suitable and they do so not later than 31st March 1947

QUALITY OF MATCHES PRODUCED IN INDIA

* 383 ***Mr. Manu Subedar :** (a) What steps has the Honourable the Member for Industries and Supplies taken for the improvement of the quality of matches produced in India ?

(b) Is it a fact that matches are produced under controlled conditions at prices fixed by Government ?

(c) Is it a fact that these prices leave magnificent profits to the principal producing companies ?

(d) How do Government account for the fact that the quality of matches on the market is the same as the war quality ?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take in order to remedy this matter ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai : (a) and (e) The quality of matches depends upon the quality of wood and of potassium chlorate. Good quality potassium chlorate is produced in adequate quantities at present in India, but the match manufacturers have not been able to get the right type of wood in sufficient quantities. Before the War the Andaman Islands were an important source of supply for match-making wood for the Indian industry. After the Islands were taken over by the Japanese, the Indian match industry had to face the problem of arranging supplies of wood from indigenous sources. Some of these sources provided good substitutes, but due to excessive war time fellings in the Forests, supplies of the particular varieties required were considerably reduced and timbers of inferior quality had to be used. Government of India intend to ask the Provincial Governments to reserve exclusively for the manufacture of matches certain species of wood available in some parts of India. Steps are also being taken to improve supplies of timber from the Andamans.

(b) and (c) Matches are not produced under controlled conditions at prices fixed by Government. Until 30th September 1946 the prices of match boxes were fixed in relation to the cost of production and handling charges, manufacturers were allowed a reasonable profit. However, with the expiry of the Defence of India Act, the Central Government have no longer the power to fix the retail price of matches.

(d) The quality of matches is improving with the improved supply of match chemicals and better quality of wood. It will be sometime before the pre-war quality is attained, as transport and other difficulties still hamper regular supply of raw materials to the factories.

Mr. Manu Subedar : In connection with the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member during the last Budget, was not an assurance given to this House that the price of matches will be fixed at half an anna—the retail price—and do I understand that Government will not make an attempt to see that the public is not overcharged by the producers who are a monopoly foreign company ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai : I believe an assurance was given by the Honourable the Finance Member in his last budget statement. But it has not been possible so far to implement the suggestion he made wholly.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Are any facilities being given for producing matches as a cottage industry ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai : That question was gone into in great detail when the Tariff Board Enquiry into the match industry took place. It is possible to do so, but whether it would stand up to competition against highly organized, large-scale concern, is a problem that admits of doubt.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir : Isn't it a fact that the price of match boxes has been reduced according to the undertaking given by the Finance Member in the last budget session and that boxes now of 50 matches are supplied to the public at a lower rate and the undertaking has been carried out ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai : I should like notice of that.

Mr. President : Question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

FAST EXPRESS TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI AND MADRAS

383 *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth : Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state :—

(a) what steps have been taken to speed up the Grand Trunk Express which was definitely promised in the last session of the Assembly, and

(b) when the fast Express train between Delhi and Madras which was promised in the last session is going to be started ?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The Railways concerned have been instructed to take special measures to ensure more punctual running of this train and to subject it to periodical checks by Traffic and Locomotive Inspectors, so that prompt action can be taken to eradicate all avoidable delays. There are however a number of causes of unpunctuality which it is difficult to overcome, such as heavy loads, poor quality coal and engines which are no longer in first class condition.

A copy of the Honourable Member's question and my reply thereto will however be sent to the Railways concerned to ensure that they will redouble their efforts to secure a greater degree of punctuality.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply just given to parts (a), (b) and (c) of Sri Venkatasubba Reddiar's starred question No. 868.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE TO MEN IN LOWER AND HIGHER SELECTION CLASSES IN SIND AND BALUCHISTAN CIRCLE OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

384 *Seth Sukhdev : (a) Will the Secretary of the Communication Department please state the number of men separately in the Lower and Higher Selection Grades in the Sind and Baluchistan Circle of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who have been granted extension of service during the last two years ?

(b) What are the periods of extension granted in each case ?

(c) What are the reasons for granting such extensions ?

(d) What is the effect of such extensions on those immediately below them and on the general position of unemployment ?

(e) Do Government propose to grant such extensions also to those who have now been adversely affected by Government's present policy of granting extensions ? If not, why not ?

(f) What steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of those now adversely affected ? If none, why ?

(g) What is the policy of Government in granting extensions in future to the officers and staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in general and the Sind and Baluchistan Circle in particular ?

Sir Harold Shoberg: (a) None

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) Do not arise

(g) I would request the Honourable Member to refer the general question of policy regarding the grant of extensions of service to the Home Department. The present Fundamental Rules upon the subject are being followed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

INDIAN RADIO AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY LIMITED

385. *Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state if the Government of India have completed arrangement to take over the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company Limited on 1st of January 1947, in accordance with the notice served on the Company in the beginning of this year ?

(b) What is the total number of officers and the employees of the Company who are drawing a salary, including personal allowance —(i) of Rs. 450 and over, (ii) between Rs. 250 and Rs. 450, and (iii) between Rs. 150 and Rs. 250 ? How many are Muslims in each category ?

(c) What is the scale of pay, as given in the Grading Schedule of the Company for the grades of—(i) Deputy General Manager, (ii) General Traffic Manager, (iii) Chief Engineer, (iv) Assistant Traffic Manager, and (v) Engineer-in-charge? How many officers have been promoted to these grades during last 3 years? What initial salary and special allowances, if any, have been granted in each case?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) The Government of India are making arrangements for taking over the service of the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company, Limited, with effect from the 1st January, 1947

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement

(b) The required information so far as it is available is given below —

(i) Number of employees 40—Muslim, One

(ii) Number of employees 157—Muslims—3

(iii) Number of employees 75—Muslims—12

(c) (i) Deputy General Manager—scale, Rs 1,500—50—1,750

(ii) General Traffic Manager—scale, Rs 1,200—50—1,500

(iii) Chief Engineer—scale, Rs 1,200—50—1,500

(iv) Assistant Traffic Manager—This grade has been abolished and replaced by Assistant Managers—scale, Rs 625—35—800

(v) Engineer-in-Charge—scale, Rs 535—25—775

The information regarding number of officers promoted to these grades during the last three years and the initial salary and special allowances granted in each case is given below —

(i) Number of officers promoted to grade—One and initial salary granted Rs 1,600

(ii) Number of officers promoted to grade—One and initial salary granted Rs 1,200

(iii) Number of officers promoted to grade—One and initial salary granted Rs 1,500

(iv) Number of officers promoted to grade—Three and initial salary granted Rs 700

(v) Number of officers promoted to grade—Five initial salary granted Rs 600, in four cases with free quarter at Kirkee or allowance of Rs 75 at Bombay in lieu of free quarters, and initial salary granted in the fifth case Rs 560 at Delhi with an allowance of Rs 300

METHOD OF FIXATION OF PRICES OF YARN AND CLOTH

386. *Mr. P. B. Gole Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the method by which the prices of yarn and cloth are fixed,

(b) the relation that they bear to the controlled price of cotton,

(c) whether Government are aware that the Textile Mills are making huge profits on account of the abnormally high prices of cloth fixed by the Textile Commissioner, and

(d) Whether any representation has been made by the East India Cotton Association for raising the minimum prices of cotton if the prices of cloth and yarn are not reduced?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: (a) The basis for fixing prices of cloth and yarn is a schedule of realisation multipliers for certain key counts. These realisation multipliers cover all the various charges involved such as cost of cotton, all manufacturing charges from the mixing of the cotton and the spinning up to and including weaving, cost of finishing and packing, overhead expenses of mills and profit margin. This schedule of realisation multipliers is subjected to percentage changes from time to time by negotiation between the Government of India and the industry.

(b) It is not possible to specify the exact relationship between the controlled prices of cloth and yarn and the controlled prices of cotton, because, as indicated in the reply to part (a) of the question, the schedule of realisation multipliers takes into account all the relevant cost factors. But changes in this schedule are so effected as to take into full account cotton prices.

(c) The schedule as it stands at present is believed to allow larger profits on cloth and yarn of fine counts than on cloth and yarn of medium and coarse cloth on which the profits are at present relatively small. In fact there is reason to believe that margins of profit are very small on coarse cloth, and that this is one cause for the fall in production of coarse cloth. Profit margins of course vary in proportion to the efficiency of the management, and condition of the machinery of each individual mill. Some make large profits while others on the margin even work at no profit. The whole question of cloth costs is complicated and is now actively under consideration.

(d) The East India Cotton Association did make a representation that the floor prices of cotton should be raised, but there was nothing in their representation relating to the reduction of the prices of cloth and yarn.

PRICES OF COTTON

387. *Mr. Manu Subedar. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how much cotton did Government of India purchase under the scheme to prevent cotton falling below a certain price?

(b) When were these prices fixed and what were the considerations for fixing the price of cotton as low as they were fixed?

(c) Have Government examined the position of cotton and gone into the reason why the price of Indian cotton should be lower than pre-war price, whereas the American cotton is two to three times the pre-war price?

(d) What steps are Government taking in order to see that the cotton cultivator gets the full value for his exertion?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) During the 1943-44 season Government bought 277,854 bales. During the 1944-45 season Government bought 22,588 bales. There have been no purchases since then.

(b) The prices for the 1943-44 and 1944-45 seasons were fixed in October 1943 and August 1944 respectively. The considerations that weighed with the Government in fixing these prices were (i) to ensure that the cotton floors were less attractive than the food floors, so that the production of cotton surplus to requirements was discouraged and the production of food maximised, (ii) Government's anti-inflationary policy. The very fact that Government had to buy as many as 300,437 bales in order to sustain these floors shows that the prices fixed were not unduly low.

(c) Current cotton prices are not below the pre-war levels.

(d) Government have recently increased the floor prices of fine Jarilla 3/4" staple by Rs. 80 and the floor prices of other descriptions *pro rata*.

"FLOOR PRICES" OF COTTON

388. *Prof. N. G. Ranga. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state what was the "floor price" for cotton in September, 1946, and new "floor price" fixed in October, what is the percentage of difference between them?

(b) Is it a fact that this increase in "floor price" does not effect the ultimate cost of cotton cloth?

(c) For how long have the cotton growers been complaining against the earlier "floor price" of cotton? Why was all the delay caused in setting right the position? What is the departmental machinery available to continually watch the trend of the respective prices of cotton, yarn and cloth and to see that the cotton growers are not exploited by the millowners?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The floor price for Fine Jarilla in September was Rs. 350 per candy, and the new floor price fixed in October is Rs. 430 per candy. The percentage difference is roughly 23 per cent. The floor prices of other cottons have been increased by roughly the same percentage.

(b) Government do not consider that this increase in the floor prices will affect the cost of cotton cloth. The market price which was round about

Rs 440 per candy for Fine Jarilla previous to the change is round about Rs 460 now

(c) For some years representatives of cotton growers have been complaining that the floor prices were much too low. That they were in fact not unduly low is shown by the fact that market prices have touched the floor on only two occasions. The recent decision to increase the floors was taken because Government decided that it would serve the interests of the grower to narrow the margin between floors and ceilings and give less scope for speculators. They are of the view that this would tend to stabilise market prices at or about current levels, and give more confidence to the cotton trade, who it is expected by reason of their increased confidence will be likely to allow better prices to the cotton grower. There is a section of the Textile Commissioner's office concerned exclusively with cotton matters, which watches the trend of prices and whose duty it is to see that the prices fixed by Government give a fair return to the cotton grower. Government's Honorary Adviser on Cotton has many years experience of cotton matters in India and the Cotton Committee of the Textile Control Board comprises experienced business-men actively interested in the cotton trade. Government believe that the guarantee of a floor, and the careful adjustment of supplies against internal needs and export markets, will stabilise the grower's price at a fair level.

BAN AGAINST PRODUCTION OF COTTON IN MADRAS

389. *Prof. N. G. Ranga Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state whether in view of the new policy of the Congress Ministry of Madras to make that province self-sufficient in Khadi, yarn and cloth production and help peasants to raise as much cotton as possible in their own villages, Government propose to withdraw their "Ban orders" against the production of cotton in a number of Madras Districts?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The ban on cotton cultivation in certain tracts has been imposed by the Provincial Government and not by the Centre. The question of the continuance of the ban is being examined by the Government of Madras in consultation with their officers.

ASSEMBLING OF AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

390. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the number and place where Government ordnance factories or other agencies have undertaken the manufacture or assembling of agricultural tractors and their ploughing sets and spare parts,

(b) how many tractors have so far been secured or fitted as complete ploughing units and how many given to each province,

(c) what are the countries from which these tractors and ploughs have been got so far and the number of plough and tractors expected to be delivered and when,

(d) whether Government have arranged to secure experts from foreign countries to manage the factories engaged in the manufacture of tractors and ploughing implements, and

(e) the number of agricultural implement factories in India, where are these situated and when started, what help is given by the Government?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Government have set up a tractor reconditioning and repairing station at Delhi. A private firm is taking up the manufacture of tractor drawn implements at Bombay. The question of starting the manufacture or assembling of agricultural tractors is being looked into by the Automobile and Tractors Panel set up by the Planning and Development Department. It is however considered that such a plant will not be a commercial proposition until the demand is of the order of 4,000 tractors a year.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) The tractors and ploughs so far received have all been imported from the U S A. Against our outstanding indents we are still to receive 388 tractors

and 481 ploughs (all types) from North America and 30 tractors and 244 ploughs (all types) from U. K. These are expected to be delivered before December, 1947

(d) Does not arise

(e) The exact number of factories for the manufacture of animal and hand operated agricultural implements is not known but a list of the more important factories is laid on the table. There is only one factory for the manufacture of tractor drawn implements situated in Bombay and started in 1946. Help is given by Government to these factories for the procurement of iron, steel, coal, coke, etc

Statement I

[In reply to part (b)]

128 tractors and 25 Mould board Ploughs have been received from the U.S.A., since 1944, and distributed as follows —

Bombay	52 Tractors and 20 Ploughs
Baluchistan	6 Tractors and 3 Ploughs
Baroda	6 Tractors and 2 Ploughs
Bihar	5 Tractors
Bundi State	1 Tractor
Central Schemes	4 Tractors
Hyderabad State	5 Tractors
I A R I	2 Tractors
Madras	8 Tractors
Mysore State	8 Tractors
Patiala State	1 Tractor
Rampur State	5 Tractors
Sind	1 Tractor
Travancore State	1 Tractor
U. P.	10 Tractors
In hand	4 Tractors

In addition 315 used tractors and 8 Ploughs have been acquired from U.S. Army surpluses in India. Of these 12 tractors have been sent to Bombay, 41 tractors and 3 Ploughs to Madras and 15 tractors and 3 Ploughs to Mysore. The remaining machines will be repaired in a special workshop being set up for the purpose, before they can be put to any use.

Statement II

Lists of Firms referred to in reply to part (c) of the question

- 1 The Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Allahabad
- 2 M/s Arthur Butler & Co (Muzaffarpur), Ltd, Muzaffarpur
- 3 M/s Batala Engineering Co, Batala, Punjab
- 4 M/s Bhanamal Gulzarimal, Delhi
- 5 M/s Bhanamal Gulzarimal, Mithapur, Patna Jn
- 6 M/s Bhansingh Attarsingh, Mirpur Khas, Sind.
- 7 M/s Hans Raj Gupta & Co, Delhi
- 8 The Government Central Workshop, Roorkee, U P
- 9 M/s Kartar Singh & Sons, Mirpur Khas, Sind
- 10 M/s Larsen & Toubro, P O. Box 278, Bombay 1.
- 11 M/s Malik Mohammad Din & Co, Lahore
- 12 M/s The Mysore Implements Co, P O Hassan (Mysore)

- 13 The Montgomery Dairy Farm, Montgomery, Punjab
- 14 M/s The Nahan Foundry, Nahan (Simla, State)
- 15 M/s P S G & Sons, Charity Industrial Institute, Peelamedu, (Coimbatore)
- 16 M/s Renwick & Co, Ltd, Khustia, B & A Railway, Bengal
- 17 M/s Kirloskar Bros, Kirloskarwadi, Dist Satara (Bombay)
- 18 M/s W Leslie & Co (Punjab), Ltd, Lahore
- 19 M/s Cooper Engineering Ltd, Satara (Bombay)
- 20 M/s The Tata Iron & Steel Co, Ltd, Tatanagar

TRANSPORT OF FISH BY ROAD AND RAIL

391. *Mr. R. C. Morris Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department please state whether, with the expected increase of supplies of fish, improved freezing arrangements for transport by rail and road into the interior will be effected?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Improved freezing arrangements for fish during transport by road and rail will be effected with due regard to the expected increased supplies of fish resulting from development of additional fishery resources, and the supply position of ice and of essential cold storage equipment, which may have to be imported from abroad.

CONTROL ON FUEL OIL IMPORTS

392. *Mr. Vadial Lalubhai : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that due to control on fuel oil imports and its prices foreign combines are charging very heavy prices which are out of proportion to the cost in the manufacturing countries?

(b) Is it a fact that Government was being charged more prices for fuel oil than private consumers before the war?

(c) Is it a fact that foreign combines show calculations at the high pre-war price on which they have based their present calculations?

(d) Is it a fact that even the present price calculations shown to Government are also on the higher level?

(e) Do Government propose to see that this charging of higher prices is put a stop to?

(f) What are the reasons for continuing control on fuel oil?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The existing control is over physical distribution of supplies of fuel oil to consumers, not on price.

The sale prices of petroleum products are fixed on the basis of prevailing f o b Gulf of Mexico prices *plus* current freight and other charges from a Gulf port to a port in the country of consumption, irrespective of the source of supply. In the case of furnace oil however, the Government have secured prices fixed on the basis of f o b Gulf of Mexico price *plus* the actual freight and other incidental charges from Abadan—the source of supply. As these charges are lower than the corresponding charges on supplies from the Gulf of Mexico, the Indian prices are in fact lower than what would have been ordinarily charged in accordance with the normal price policy of the oil companies. There are no reasons to believe that f o b Gulf prices are not fixed in relation to the cost of production or that the Abadan costs are lower than the Gulf costs.

(b) An instance has been brought to notice where the oil interests, with the probable intention of inducing industries in India to convert their plant from coal-fired to oil-fired furnaces, and thereby establishing new and expanded regular business for oil, had sold furnace oil during the years 1938 and 1939 at prices below those charged to Government. This does not, however, indicate any flaw in the price basis accepted by Government.

(c), (d) and (e) In view of the replies to parts (a) and (b) above, these questions do not arise

(f) Fuel oil is in world short supply and 90 per cent of India's requirements are obtained from Abadan against quotas allotted by H M G Continuance of control over the distribution of fuel oil is considered necessary in order to ensure equitable distribution to essential customers. Putting this item on the free list, as suggested by the Honourable Member, will enable non-essential consumers who command a large amount of cash, to buy up the major portion of the available fuel oil, thus depriving the more essential consumers, such as those employed in connection with Food production, of their due share

CONTROL ON SALE OF MOTOR CARS

393 *Mr. Madandhari Singh : Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bengal Government has lifted the control over the sale of motor cars,

(b) if it is a fact that the Bihar Government is still having the control over the sale of motor cars,

(c) whether it is possible for customers from Bihar to go to Calcutta to purchase cars without permits, and

(d) if so, the reason for retaining the control over the sale of cars in Bihar ?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) to (d) The question relates to a matter which is now the concern of Provincial Governments. It is understood that the Government of Bengal have not re-imposed control while the Government of Bihar who did re-impose control over distribution and prices of motor vehicles from 1st October, 1946 have abolished it with effect from 1st November, 1946

PROTECTION OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS FROM LAWLESSNESS IN CALCUTTA

394 *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the serious disturbances and dislocation in Railway transport due to the state of lawlessness in Calcutta and other parts of Bengal,

(b) what steps have been taken or are being taken for ensuring safety and protection of Railway passengers on board the train (and steamer) and at stations of Railway employees and of Railway rolling stocks and of other kinds of property of the Railway and of the passengers and the public, and

(c) what are the obligation of the Provincial Government with regard to the above, and the guarantee for the fulfilment of the said obligation ?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my replies to Mr K C Neogy's starred questions Nos. 30 and 31 given on the 28th October, 1946. I may add that all action that could be taken by the railway administrations for the protection of railway property and personnel as well as railway passengers in the affected areas was taken by them. Government are also considering the provision of a Special Armed Force for the protection of railway property, staff and the passengers and are also examining the question of enhancing punishments for offences under certain sections of the Indian Railways Act of 1919

(c) The provision of protection for railways is one of the functions of the Provincial Governments concerned. As, however, the normal strength of the Police under a Provincial Government cannot be expected to be sufficient to meet an emergency of such magnitude as now exists, Government are proposing the measures referred to in my reply to part (b) above

ALLOTMENT OF TEXTILE MILLS FOR THE COTTON PRODUCING PROVINCES

395 *Captain Syed Abid Hussain : (a) Will the Honorable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is a fact that while allotting 124 new textile mills to various Provinces of India, no consideration and preference was shown to the cotton producing Provinces?

(b) Do Government propose to sanction a few more new textile mills exclusively for the cotton producing Provinces?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai : (a) It is not correct to say that no consideration was given to the factor of raw cotton availability in Provinces. If the Honourable Member will refer to paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Report of the Post-war Planning Committee (Textiles) he will see that, in arriving at their recommendations regarding allotments of spindles to Provinces, the Committee took into account availability of cotton along with other relevant factors.

(b) No, Sir. But Government will give due weight to the advantages of the availability of raw cotton, as has been done even now, when the next stage of expansion is reached.

SHORTAGE OF THIRD CLASS TICKETS ON MALAKWAL-SHORKOT ROAD LINE ON N. W. RAILWAY

396. *Captain Syed Abid Hussain : (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at many Railway Stations on the Malakwal-Shorkot Road line (North Western Railway) third class tickets are not available to passengers?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Authorities issue Passes to passengers in batches which causes great inconvenience to the travelling public and specially to the lady passengers?

(c) Is it also a fact that if the holder of a pass of a particular batch disappears on the destination then the other fellow passengers are liable to be charged against as ticketless travellers?

(d) If the replies to parts (a) to (c) above be in the affirmative, then do Government propose to take immediate steps to remedy the inconvenience, and to take disciplinary action against the staff?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Information regarding the complaint of shortage of third class tickets on the Malakwal Shorkot Road line is not available at the headquarters of the North Western Railway. This information is being obtained from Divisional headquarters and a detailed reply will be placed on the table of the House when the information becomes available.

RIVAZ BRIDGE ON N. W. RAILWAY

397 *Captain Syed Abid Hussain : (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Rivaz Bridge between the Railway Stations Thatta Ma'a and Chund (North Western Railway) is used by the Railway and is also open to public traffic?

(b) Is it a fact that the important Jhang Shahpur Road also crosses the Chanab River through the above mentioned bridge?

(c) Is it a fact that within a radius of thirty miles there is no other bridge open to public for crossing the river and that there are thousands of people and animals and lorry loads of commercial commodities crossing the bridge every day?

(d) Is it also a fact that the Railway Authorities who are in charge of this bridge close it from sunset to sunrise as also from 11-30 A.M. to 1-30 P.M., thereby limiting the time of the public crossing only to a few hours of the day?

(e) In view of the changed time and conditions and in view of the great difficulty with which the public is faced, do Government propose to open the bridge to the public traffic throughout day and night closing only half an hour before the train timings?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali : The information asked for is being obtained from the Railway Administration concerned and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT BOARDS AND FODDER AND GRAZING COMMITTEES

398 *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state in which provinces Livestock Improvement Boards and Fodder and Grazing Committees are working, and since how long?

(b) Do Government know that there have been frequent cattle fodder famines in several parts of the country where best breeds of cattle are reared, thereby causing difficulties of timely agricultural operations in those areas? What steps have so far been taken by Government to tide over and solve the fodder problems?

(c) Has the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research suggested any scheme and advice and made grants towards schemes to solve these fodder famines? If so, what are they?

(d) What are the post-war schemes suggested under the Forest Department to improve the fodder and grazing facilities in the forest?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Committees or Boards were set up in Assam, Bengal, Bihar, the C P, Madras, Orissa, the Punjab and the U P in 1938 or thereabouts

(b) Government are aware of the fact that fodder famines occur from time to time in different areas. In the current year arrangements were made for the supply of baled hay to the deficit areas but were only availed of by a few areas. A certain amount of cattle feed has also been imported. Rotational grazing has been introduced in certain areas to make more fodder available. Forest areas are thrown open to grazing in times of fodder scarcity. Research has also been carried out for using articles like Munj, Kans, Mango Seed Kernel, etc., as fodder after suitable treatment.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) The post-war plans aim at establishing rotational grazing schemes on scientific lines and at developing waste, desert and derelict land for the production of grass, tree leaf-fodders and pods.

Statement

Two schemes were sanctioned in 1941 in Bombay and the U P for the improvement of grass lands by rotational grazing but these could not be started because of non availability of fencing material. A scheme for the improvement of pasture land in Baroda financed by the Council is still under operation. Two schemes for the improvement of pastures by rotational grazing and reseedling in the Punjab and Bengal have recently been sanctioned. A similar scheme has been received from Assam and is under the consideration of the Council. A Desert Farming scheme is in operation in Sind since 1942 for the introduction of various drought resistant cereals and fodder crops, new grasses and xerophytic trees for shade and emergency fodder.

PAY OF EMPLOYEES OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT FOR STRIKE PERIOD

399 *Sjt Seth Damodar Swroop (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state if Government are aware of the fact that the pay of the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the strike period was withheld by the Caretaker Government. If so, do Government propose to consider the question afresh and allow the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department their pay for the strike period in some form or other, as the poor employees are already hard hit by the economic distress?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that in the last Bengal Nagpur Railway Strike the employees were allowed their pay for the strike period and this fact furnishes a precedent?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Question No. 22, asked by Miss Mamiben Kara on the 28th of October 1946.

(b) It is a fact that when employees of the Bengal Nagpur Railway at Khargapur went on strike in 1927, pay was allowed for the strike period, but this cannot be regarded as a precedent since there were special circumstances to justify the concession. I may add—the Railway at that time was not a State concern.

SUGAR, GUM, SALT AND DAL QUOTA IN ASSAM

400. *Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state if Government are aware that owing to damages done by a series of devastating floods from July to October this year in Nowgong, Sylhet, and some other Districts of the province of Assam, there is an inadequate quantity of imported foodstuff, such as Sugar, Salt, Gum (molasses) and Dal? If so, have Government either sanctioned increased quota of these commodities for Assam or have taken other steps necessary to provide for the increased supply?

(b) How many Biscuit Factories are there in the different towns of Assam?

(c) Is it a fact that most of them are lying idle for want of adequate quantity of sugar and flour?

(d) Is it a fact that roughly speaking a monthly supply of one hundred maunds of each of these commodities would enable these Factories to work? If so, do Government propose to sanction the additional quota for the Province?

Mr. B. R. Sen. (a) No complaint has been received from the Assam Government regarding shortage of salt, sugar and Gum in Nowgong and Sylhet as a result of floods. Assam's Gum quota was recently increased by 1,500 tons. There is a shortage of pulses in Assam, 3,500 tons of Moong and Masur were allotted to Assam in September and October and more will be allotted as further supplies become available.

(b) (c) and (d) An enquiry has been made from the Government of Assam about Biscuit factories and the question of allocation of additional quantities of flour and sugar required by these factories will be considered on receipt of their reply.

LOW CONTROL PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE IN ASSAM

401. *Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state whether Government of India have fixed control prices of paddy and rice in Bengal and Assam. If so, what are these prices?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of Assam had requested the Government of India to permit them to increase the control prices of paddy and rice? If so what was the decision of the Government of India?

(c) Are Government aware that on account of comparative low prices fixed for paddy and rice, the producers have been hard hit and that they are not in a position to purchase adequate quantities of necessaries of life as also the husbandry implements?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The prices of paddy and rice in Bengal and Assam have been fixed by the Provincial Governments in consultation with the Government of India. Statements showing these prices are laid on the table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have decided that there should be no change in the existing prices of paddy and rice.

(c) The Government of India do not consider that the prices of paddy and rice are too low.

Statement showing the procurement prices of rice and paddy in Bengal and Assam

I. BENGAL

Districts	A M A N			A U S		
	Medium paddy	Milled medium rice	Milled coarse rice	Districts	Paddy	Rice
Dinajpur Jalpaiguri Rangpur	5 12 0	10 8 0	10 0 0	For all districts	5 2 0	9 11 0

Districts	A M A N			A U S		
	Medium paddy	Milled medium rice	Milled coarse rice	Districts	Paddy	Rice
Malda, Bogra Rajshahi Darjeeling (Siliguri sub-dn.)	5 14 0	10 11 0	10 3 0			
Bakergaj .	6 4 0	10 12 0	10 4 0			
Khulna Mymensingh	6 4 0	10 14 3	10 6 0			
Jessore Nadia Murshidabad Pabna	6 4 0	11 0 0	10 8 0			
Faridpur (Gupalganj sub-dn.)	6 4 0					
Faridpur (Sadar, Goalundo and Madaripur sub-dn.)	6 8 0					
Dacca	6 8 0	11 2 0	10 10 0			
Chuttagong	6 12 0	11 8 0	11 0 0			
Midnapur Burdwan Birbhum Bankura	6 8 0	11 4 0	10 12 0			
Hooghly Howrah 24 Parganas	6 14 0	11 12 0	11 4 0	NOTE—Prices for delivery at godowns at railheads		

(1) Aman variety	Rice	Paddy	} Prices for delivery at agents' godowns, at railway or steamer heads.
Surplus districts	11 1 0	6 2 0	
Self Sufficient districts	11 4 0	6 8 0	
Deficit districts	11 12 0	6 15 3	} Fixed procurement price payable to cultivators at the nearest grain market
(2) Aus & Boro	8 8 0	4 8 0	

ALLOTMENT TO ASSAM OF QUOTA OF DIRECT SUPPLY OF BRASS SHEETS, CYCLES, CLOTH AND CORRUGATED IRON SHEETS

402 *Sreejit Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (.) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state what quota of direct supply of the following materials, if any, has been allotted to the Province of Assam: (i) Brass sheets, (ii) cycles, their parts and accessories, (iii) cloth and other materials necessary for the manufacture of umbrellas, and (iv) corrugated iron sheets?

(b) Are Government aware that the quantity of each commodity allotted is quite inadequate and that the Government of Assam had asked for its increase without any success?

(c) Are Government aware that the method of distribution adopted in Assam is unsatisfactory?

[11th Nov 1946]

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (a) (i) Assam has been allotted a quota of 10 per cent of the brass sheets landed at the port of Calcutta which represent about 80 per cent of the total imports into India

(ii) and (iii) As the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order 1944 expired on the 1st October 1946, there is no Central Control now over the distribution of cycles, their accessories and parts and umbrella ribs

As regards umbrella cloth, one lakh yards was allocated to Assam for the 1946 season, the quantity actually supplied being in excess of that allocation by 5,000 yards. The allocation for 1947 has not yet been made

(iv) Hitherto there was no separate quota of corrugated iron sheets allotted to Assam. Assam together with Bihar and Orissa and neighbouring Indian States was provided for under the allotment to the Bengal Circle

(b) Government are fully aware of the inadequacy of supplies as compared with the demand. This is true not only of Assam but of all Provinces

(c) The method of distribution is as follows

(i) *Brass sheets*—The manufacturers in Assam draw their supplies through the East India Metal Merchants Association, Calcutta, which also serves Bengal, parts of U P and C P, Bihar, Orissa and Cooh Bihar State. No representation has been made to Government that this method is unsatisfactory

(ii) and (iii) *Cycles, their parts and accessories and cloth and other materials for the manufacture of umbrellas*.—The question does not arise in respect of cycles, their parts and accessories and umbrella ribs in view of the reply I have given to part (a) of the question

As regards umbrella cloth, the supplies are placed at the disposal of the Provincial Government. The Government of India are not aware of the detailed method of distribution which the Provincial Government has adopted

(iv) *Corrugated iron sheets*—There was no control of distribution to small consumers from the 1st April to 31st July 1946. As far as Government are aware most of the dissatisfaction arises from the shortage of steel rather than the method of distribution. In any case, control of distribution has now been re-established and powers have been given to Provincial Governments to distribute steel within their respective Provinces. It is hoped that this will remove dissatisfaction regarding methods

EXTENSION OF BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY LINE FROM RANGAPARA TO TEZPUR TOWN

403. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if Bengal and Assam Railway Line will be extended from Rangapara North to Tezpur Town in the near future? If so, when?

(b) Are Government aware that the service rendered between the aforesaid stations by the T B Railway is most unsatisfactory and the passengers availing themselves run a great personal risk of loss of life or property or both?

(c) Has any step been taken to construct a bridge on Brahmaputra between Jogghopa and Pancharatna near Goalpara town in Assam? If so, by what time does the Railway Administration expect to complete the construction?

(d) Are Government aware that in the Assam Zone of the Bengal and Assam Railway roofs of most of the compartments leak from the roof and that all of them are not provided with lights even on the main lines? If so, do Government propose to have the Railway compartments running in the abovementioned area repaired and to issue instructions to fit them with lights?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The conversion of Rangapara-Tezpur Tramway line to metre gauge and its amalgamation with the Bengal Assam Railway is a long-term project which will be considered when the contract with the Tezpur-Balpara Steam Tramway Co., Ltd. who are at present working the line, expires in 1952. According to the terms of the agreement with the said Tramway Company, Government could terminate the contract 15 years after the opening of the line and every seven years thereafter. The next option occurs in 1952

(b) Government are not aware of the position and are having the matter investigated

(c) A rail-road bridge across the Brahmaputra has been sited at Jogigopa in connection with the projected line between Goalpara and Bongaigaon, but a preliminary report shows that the line will not be commercially remunerative. The matter is under correspondence with the Defence Department with a view to ascertaining whether they would agree to its construction as a strategic line. If and when the construction is decided, the bridge might take about four years to complete from the time the work is taken in hand

(d) Due to the shortage of supplies during the war, some carriages on the Railways had to be re-roofed with painted canvas. Supplies of standard materials are now being received and carriages are being re-roofed. It is expected that before the beginning of the next monsoon, all carriages will have been re-roofed with standard material.

There have been frequent thefts of bulbs in the Assam zone of the Bengal Assam Railway, making it difficult for the Administration to provide adequate lights in trains. Orders have already been issued to fit wire cages to the roof lights to prevent pilferage and to provide at least 50 per cent of the pre-war number of bulbs in each compartment. Each lavatory is treated as a compartment for this purpose. As and when the supply position improves, it will be possible to provide the full complement of bulbs.

INCREASED PRODUCTION OF MILK AS RECOMMENDED BY BHORE COMMITTEE

404. *Mr. P. K. Salve (a) Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department please state if Government are aware that the Bhore Committee Report has pointed out that one of the reasons for the poor health of the people of India is want of milk?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the number of milk dairies in India, both Government and non-Government, and also the number of milch cows and milk buffaloes in them?

(c) What is the number of persons who are able to obtain milk from Government dairies?

(d) Are Government aware that the Bhore Committee has definitely stated that production of milk must be increased 110 times the present quantity? If so, what steps are Government taking to solve this problem?

(e) Have the Government of India got any scheme for the supply of a large quantity of milk to the inhabitants of this country for improving their health? If none, do they propose to prepare a scheme now?

(f) Will Government be pleased to take drastic measures to stop the sale of adulterated milk?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) There are 89 military dairies with 6,400 cows and 34,800 buffaloes. The number of civil government and private dairies and the number of animals in them are not known, but an enquiry conducted in 1939 showed that there were then 33 government or state dairies and 220 organised private dairies. The latter include many firms which do not maintain animals but only collect milk from villages while gwalas and other cattle owners who are unorganised are not included in the figure.

(c) This number is not known but it is comparatively negligible.

(d) and (e) The Bhore Committee have recommended that the target should be an increase in milk production to the extent of at least 110 per cent. The steps that are being taken to increase milk production are stated in my reply to part (g) of question No. 146 asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on the 11th February, 1946.

(f) It is for Provincial Governments to adopt suitable measures for stopping the adulterations of milk and their attention has been invited to the matter.

GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF PETTI NUTS

405. *Sri A. K. Menon (a) Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state what grant was allotted for the purpose of financing measures designed to improve the production and marketing of betel-nuts for 1946-47? And what is the amount spent so far for the purpose?

(b) Were any applications for help received from duly constituted Co-operative Societies or other recognised bodies of betel-nut growers of the Malabar District received by Government? Was any help given to them?

(c) Do Government propose to call for a report from the Madras Government on the working of the above Society or Societies, and if the reports are favourable, to render them aid before the betel-nut season is over?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat (a) A grant of Rs. 5 lakhs is proposed to be made for this purpose subject to the vote of the Assembly. An intensive survey of the growing and marketing conditions of betelnuts in India has been conducted with a view to framing a scheme for the improvement of production and the organisation of betelnut marketing. About Rs. 22,300 have so far been spent on this survey.

(b) One application for assistance was received from the Malabar Accanutt Growers' Association. No help was given in response to this request as it was considered that any piecemeal action was inadvisable and the whole position with regard to the marketing of accanutt was the subject of special investigation.

(c) An enquiry will be made from the Madras Government as suggested and the question of giving aid will again be looked into.

PURCHASE OF COTTON BY U. K. GOVERNMENT

406. *Mr Manu Subedar (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how much cotton has the Government of the United Kingdom purchased from India?

(b) Have Government any information as to the price at which such cotton has been purchased?

(c) Has permission been given for the export of such cotton to the United Kingdom?

(d) For what quantity has permission been given for the export of cotton to (i) China, (ii) Japan, and (iii) other countries?

(e) Have Government helped U. K. Government with finance in rupees for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (a) During the current cotton year, viz., 1st September, 1946 to 31st August, 1947, 67,540 bales of short staple cotton have so far been purchased by the U. K. Government.

(b) No, Sir. The purchases have been made through the normal commercial channels.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following quotas have been fixed for export of cotton stapling 11/16" and less to various destinations for the period September—December 1946:

United Kingdom	50,000 bales
Australia	1,000 "
European countries other than the U. K. and Germany	50,000 "
U. S. A.	15,000 "
China	65,000 "
Other countries	13,700 "

A quota of three lakh bales of raw cotton has also been fixed for export to Japan during the period September—December 1946.

(e) No, Sir.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IMPROVEMENT OF OLD BENARES ROAD BETWEEN CHANDITALA AND SHEAKHALA

44. Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay : (a) With reference to the reply given on the 27th February, 1946, to my unstarred question No 48, will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state the result of the discussion with the Government of Bengal in connection with re-starting of suspended work for metalling and improvement of the Old Benares Road between Chanditala and Sheakhala ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta and the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta through the European Group Corporation, Calcutta in their letter in June, 1946, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta in their letter in April, 1946, the Marwari Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta in their letter in July, 1946 and the Modern Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta in their letter in July, 1946, have written to the Bengal Government urging the immediate necessity of metalling and improving the road in question which has been the life-line of trade and communication for merchants, jute growers and jute suppliers ? If not, do Government propose to take the views of the said commercial bodies from the Bengal Government and state what action was taken on them ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how much money has been spent from the Central Road Fund for manufacturing brick ballasts, for making Cement concrete (D shape size) Culverts and for acquisition of surplus lands for the improvement of the said road and for construction of cement concrete road of 1/8th of a mile at Kri-torampore and 1/8th of a mile at Sheakhala ?

(d) Will Government please state when the suspended work will be re started by the Bengal Government and when it will be completed as the matter is pending since 1935 ?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali : (a) and (d) The Government of Bengal have abandoned the idea of improving the old Benares road between Chanditala and Sheakhala as it passes through a very heavily built up area to acquire which would involve Government in considerable expenditure. They are now considering a new alignment which would form a common route for several systems of roadways and would also be less expensive to build. Pending finalisation of the scheme the Provincial Government are taking steps to maintain the existing road in a state of repair.

(b) The Government of India have no information and in view of the reply to parts (a) and (d) they do not think it necessary to call for this information.

(c) Against an expenditure of Rs. 1,78,000 reported by the Government of Bengal, the Accountant General Bengal has accounted for Rs. 71,507 from the Central Road Fund to the end of March 1946. Full details of expenditure under different items mentioned by the Honourable Member are not available.

COAL FOR RAILWAYS

45. Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay : (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that Railway Board have advised the Coal Commissioner to stop taking Grade IIIA, IIIB coals for Railways altogether ? Did the Railway Board consult the Honourable Member in charge ? If not, why not ?

(b) Do Government propose to direct the Railway Board to use at least 40 per cent of their consumption in Grades II, IIIA, IIIB coals, which are all owned by Indians and also to stop using the Coking coal once for all for the future benefit of India, Growing Industries ?

(c) Are the Government aware of any blackmarket prevailing in the country with regard to distribution of Softcoke (domestic fuel) ? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to stop it at once ?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali : (a) No Sir. It is not a fact that the Railway Board advised the Coal Commissioner to stop taking Grades IIIA and IIIB of coal for Railways. Grades IIIA and IIIB are being supplied to Railways up to five per cent of their monthly orders.

(b) Government do not propose to direct the Railway Board to use at least 40 per cent of their consumption in Grades II, IIIA and Grade IIIB. The Railway Board have agreed to take 30 per cent of their requirements in these grades. While the design of some existing engines does permit of the burning of low grade coal, the design of the majority of engines does not allow a higher percentage of such coals to be consumed without loss of efficiency, due to their high ash content.

Regarding the use of coking coal, it is the considered opinion of Government that all possible measures should be taken for the conservation of high grade coal. The Railway Department, being one of the major consumers of coal, have, therefore, been called upon to consider the possibility of using, to the maximum extent possible, coal other than that which can be used for metallurgical purposes, and where possible some types of low grade coal. This policy is being implemented by the Railway Department and future designs of engines will be such as to make possible the use of the maximum quantity of other than metallurgical coal.

(c) No, Sir. The Central Government allot quotas to the Provinces and the Provincial Governments are responsible for the actual distribution amongst consumers.

GRAIN SHOP FOR EMPLOYEES OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

46. Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay : (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the East Indian Railway is giving the benefit of cheap ration to its employees which is 50 per cent, less than the rate of prices of civil ration?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that in the East Indian Railway in six divisions there are six Controllers of Grain shops in each division drawing the salary of a senior scale officer of that railway? If it is so, do Government propose to abolish the grain-shops of that railway by paying the amount of cheap ration to the staff and order the staff to take ration from civil ration shops?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that in the said railway about three lakhs of rupees are spent for the maintenance of the huge establishment for grain shops every month? If so, do Government propose to make an economy of about one lakh per month from that railway by abolition of the grain shops in the said railway paying the amount of ration to the staff?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali : (a) Indian Government Railways including the East Indian Railway, are authorised to sell rationed cereals at a rate which is 30 per cent less than the market prices prevailing in February, 1943. The rates thus fixed are admittedly below those charged by the civil ration shops, but the difference, in no case, exceeds 40 per cent.

(b) and (c) The details regarding the number and grade of the Controllers of Grainshops on the E I Railway are not as stated in the question. In addition to one officer in the junior administrative grade, there are two senior scale officers and eleven lower gazetted service officers in the Grainshop organization of that Railway. The cost of all categories of staff of the Grainshop organization including gazetted officers is, on the average, 2½ lakhs of rupees a month. The question of the abolition of the Grainshop organization and substituting the relief afforded through grain shops by a cash allowance is under consideration of Government.

CASUALTIES AMONG RAILWAY STAFF DURING COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN BENGAL

47. Mr. K. C. Neogy : Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to refer to his answer to starred question No 29 of the 28th October, 1946, giving the number of persons amongst the Railway staff that were killed, or are missing, or whose belongings had been destroyed or looted during the communal disturbances in Bengal, and state how many of the persons of the different categories mentioned are (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, and (iii) those belonging to other religious communities?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The available information so far as the Bengal Nagpur and the East Indian Railways are concerned, is given below:

Particulars	Bengal Nagpur Railway			East Indian Railway		
	Hindus	Muslims	Other religious communities	Hindus	Muslims	Other religious communities
Railway staff killed					1	
" " missing		2	1		1	
" " whose belonging destroyed or looted				14	4	

Information in regard to the Bengal Assam Railway as well as the details of property, belonging to staff of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, destroyed or looted, is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

EFFECT OF COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN BENGAL ON THE WORKING OF RAILWAYS

48. Mr. K. C. Neogy : (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to refer to his reply to starred question No 29 of the 28th October, 1946, relating to the effect of the communal disturbances in Bengal upon Railway working etc. and lay on the table a further statement on the different points covered thereby bringing the information up-to-date as far as possible?

(b) Will the Honourable Member particularly deal in this connection with the working of the Sect on of the Bengal Assam Railway serving the districts of Noakhali and Tipperah in so far as it was affected by the communal disturbances that broke out since the 10th October last?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) On the East Indian Railway 1 Up and 1 Down workmen's trains between Dobson Road and Lillooah Shops were cancelled for three days from the 26th October, 1946. On the 27th out of eleven Calcutta Chord Railway trains, seven were cancelled. Nos 13 Up and 14 Down Express trains originated from and terminated at Howrah instead of Sealdah. On the 28th, nearly all trains had late starts *ex* Howrah due to Guards failing to turn up for duty. On the 29th three morning locals and one evening local were cancelled *ex* Howrah. 208 Up workmen's train *ex* Belur to Burdwan was cancelled till 2nd November, 1946. Nos 13 Up and 15 Up were cancelled from Howrah. No 23 Up was terminated at Sahibganj. No 13 Up and 15 Up were re-introduced from 3rd November, 1946, but No 23 Up and 24 Down continue to run to and from Sahibganj. On the 5th November, 53 Up and 54 Down, 55 Up and 56 Down originated from and terminated at Jamalpur.

On the Bengal Nagpur Railway reception of trains at Chitpur was stopped from 27th October. On the 28th booking of all goods traffic, including coal and military traffic, was restricted. Dock loads for Kidderpore Docks were forwarded by the Shalmar Garden Reach Ferry and not over the Willingdon Bridge. On the 30th October all goods traffic to Shalmar, except in Class 1 and 2, was restricted.

Up-to-date information regarding the Bengal Assam Railway has not yet been received but will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Beyond what was stated in my reply to part (b) of the Honourable Member's starred question No 29 asked on the 28th October, 1946 there has been no further loss of life or damage to railway property on the East Indian and Bengal Nagpur Railways, resulting from the communal disturbances in Bengal. Information from the Bengal Assam Railway has not yet been received but will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) Information required by the Honourable Member with regard to the Districts of Noakhali and Tipperah has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

PARTICULARS OF PUBLIC KILLED OR INJURED WHILE TRAVELLING ON
RAILWAYS DURING COMMUNAL RIOTS IN BENGAL

49. Mr. K. C. Neogy : (a) With reference to the statement made by the Honourable the Railway Member in reply to starred question No. 29 of the 28th October, 1946, to the effect that particulars of the public killed or injured during communal troubles, while travelling in trains or while within Railway premises, are not available, is there any rule or instruction issued by the Railway authorities prohibiting the ascertainment of any particulars of this character? Will the Honourable Member make an effort to obtain the relevant figures from the Railway Police concerned and lay them on the table of the House?

(b) Is there no information available in relation for instance, to the case in which the wife of a Ticket Collector of the Bengal Assam Railway was brutally murdered after being dragged down from the Surma Mail train on the 29th August last between Talhar and Ashugung Stations? Is it a fact that in this case the husband, who is a Railway employee, and other members of his family, were also injured besides being robbed of their belongings? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table a full statement giving particulars of this case, if available, together with an indication as to the action taken to bring the miscreants to book?

(c) Will the Honourable Member lay on the table a statement showing in how many cases members of the Railway staff in the different Sections of the Bengal Assam Railway made appeals for help and protection either to the superior Railway officers or the Police during the prevalence of communal troubles since August 16 1946? On which dates were appeals received, and with what result?

(d) What special steps, if any, are the Railway authorities taking to ensure a vigorous investigation in all cases where Railway property, or property in the custody of Railways on behalf of customers, was looted or destroyed, or where Railway Officers or members of their families were either killed or injured, in the course of the communal disturbances in Bengal?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The reply to the first part is in the negative. Authentic information is always obtained by the Railways through the Railway Police who submit their final report after they have completed their enquiries. Final reports have not so far been received from the Bengal Assam Railway Police, and every effort is being made to obtain full information as expeditiously as possible. I may, however, mention that owing to disturbed conditions in Calcutta it is very difficult to obtain detailed particulars regarding all incidents particularly from Districts lying at some distance from the headquarters of the Railway. On receipt of fuller information I shall lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b) The Railway Police have not yet completed their investigations and submitted their report in regard to the case mentioned by the Honourable Member but full particulars are being collected by the Bengal Assam Railway Administration and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) Members of the railway staff on the different sections of the Bengal Assam Railway made a number of appeals to the Police, the Magistrates and the Railway. Full details of these appeals showing when actually help came from the military or other authorities are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course. Government, however, understand that some of the appeals made were based on rumours.

(d) The responsibility for investigation rests with the Police and there is no reason to believe that this investigation is not being vigorously pursued. Government will, however, draw the attention of the Provincial Governments to the need for a thorough and speedy investigation in such cases.

PROTECTION OF RAILWAY STAFF IN NOAKHALI AND TIPPERAH DISTRICTS

50. Mr. K. C. Neogy (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to refer to his answer to starred question No 30 of the 28th October, 1946 relating to Police precautions on the Railways affected by communal disturbances in Bengal, and lay on the table a further statement on the different points covered thereby, bringing the information up-to-date as far as possible?

(b) Will the Honourable Member particularly refer to the communal disturbances that broke out in the districts of Noakhali and Tipperah since 10th of October last, and indicate the steps taken for the protection of the Railway staff and property and passengers throughout the Section of the Railway affected thereby?

(c) Were any warnings given or complaints made, by any member of the Railway staff regarding the situation either to the District or Police authorities or to superior Railway Officials, at any time? If so, on which dates, in which areas, and to what effect? Will the Honourable Member please lay on the table copies of all such written warnings or complaints that may have been given or made by Railway Staff, and indicate the action taken in each such case?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) On the Bengal Assam Railway, in addition to the Armed Guards which travelled on each train of the Dacca Section, patrol trains were introduced on the Noakhali Section. Further details are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

On the Bengal Nagpur Railway for the protection of railway staff and their dependents in the Calcutta area, additional Gurkha Watch and Ward staff and Armed Police Guards have been posted at Shilmanai, Santagachi and Tikiapara. Watch and Ward Gurkha escorts are travelling in the brake-vans of goods trains working through the Kidderpore Docks and Chitpur. Emergency Bus Services with Watch and Ward Gurkha escorts have also been arranged to convey staff posted at the Railway's headquarters at Garden Reach to and from work.

So far as the East Indian Railway is concerned, the police arrangements mentioned in the reply to part (a) of starred question No 30 continue to remain in force and Police was available to be deployed at short notice as required to deal with any situation which may arise.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (c) of the preceding question in which I have undertaken to collect the necessary information and to lay it on the table of the House in due course.

INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONE LINES IN ALL TOWNS WHERE ELECTRIC SUPPLY IS AVAILABLE

51. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating installation of telephone line and service in all towns where electric supply is already in existence?

(b) How far have things proceeded in this matter in respect of the towns of Berhampur, Krishnagar, Kustha, Rajshahi in Bengal?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) No.

(b) In the post-war plan of the P & T Department provision exists in the form of proposals to instal telephone exchanges at Berhampore, Krishnagar and Rajshahi but not at Kustha.

TRANSFERS OF TEACHERS IN RAILWAY SCHOOLS FROM ONE PROVINCE TO ANOTHER

52. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) whether the teaching staff employed in schools maintained by the East Indian Railway Administration are governed by the rules applicable to the teaching staff of the particular Province in which the school is situated;

(b) whether the teachers serving in the East Indian Railway schools cannot be transferred from one Province to another; and

(c) if it is a fact that in contravention of the above decision of the Railway Board the East Indian Railway authorities are contemplating the transfer of a few teachers including a Head Master from one Province to another in the near future ?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The information asked for in Questions Nos 52 to 56) has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

SELECTION BOARD FOR THE POST OF HEADMASTER, MOGULSERAH SCHOOL OF E I RAILWAY

†53. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether the procedure adopted by the East Indian Railway Administration for filling the post of the Head Master of the newly raised High School of Moghalsarai was in conformity with the practice followed either by the Education Department of the United Provinces or by the East Indian Railway for filling posts of similar categories ?

(b) Is it a fact that as early as February 1945, the General Manager of the East Indian Railway formed a Selection Board consisting of the Divisional Superintendents of Dinapore, Moradabad and Asansol ?

(c) Was a Selection Board of this quality and composition ever held ? If not, why not ?

SELECTION BOARD FOR THE POST OF HEADMASTER, MOGULSERAH SCHOOL OF E I RAILWAY

†54 **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state why instead of a Selection Board of the usual composition, a Selection Board consisting of officers far junior to the Divisional Superintendents, was formed ?

(b) Is it a fact that this Selection Board too was held one year after the Moghalsarai Railway School had been raised to High School status ?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Divisional Superintendent Dinapur, was opposed to the idea of holding a Selection Board ?

APPOINTMENT OF JUNIOR OFFICERS ON SELECTION BOARD FOR SELECTION OF HEAD-MASTERS

†55. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal**. (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware of the fact that it is high officers such as the Director Public Information and Secretary, Education Department, United Provinces, that form the Selection Board for the selection of Head Masters for the Provincial Schools ? Why was a junior officer viz the Inspector of schools, Benares included in the Selection Board appointed by the Railway authorities ?

(b) Is it a fact that a representation in protest of the inclusion of the Inspector of Schools was sent to the General Manager ? Was the representation considered by the General Manager ?

POST OF HEADMASTER IN PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS

†56. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether the post of the Head Master in a Provincial School is a Gazetted Post ? If so, was the selection of candidates for such posts ever made in Divisional Offices by officers junior in rank to the Chiefs or Deputy Chiefs of the Head Office ?

(b) What steps do Government intend to take to remedy the grievances ?

PERMITS TO BOMBAY BROKERS TO IMPORT GLASS BANGLES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

57. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state

(a) whether it is a fact that some Bombay brokers have been granted permits to import glass bangles from Czechoslovakia,

(b) whether Government propose to cancel these permits in the interest of the Indian Glass Bangles Industry at Ferozabad and other places,

(c) the steps Government have taken to prevent the selling of the imported bangles in the black market by the permit holders, and

(d) whether Government propose to take the imported bangles under Government custody and distributing them to the dealers to be sold at control rates?

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: (a) Government have no information whether any of the parties to whom licences to import Glass Bangles from Czechoslovakia have been granted are Bombay brokers. Licences are granted on the basis of actual imports of parties concerned during the basic period.

(b) No, Sir. A small proportion of the imports of Glass Bangles in pre-war years is now permitted and Government do not consider that this small quantity of imports will be detrimental to the indigenous industry.

(c) and (d) The Hoarding and Profiteering (Prevention) Ordinance 1943 and the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1944 lapsed on the 1st of October, 1946. The Government of India have, therefore, no power to fix prices or margins of profit or to issue instructions with regard to the distribution of imported Bangles. It is, however, open to Provincial Governments under their own powers of legislation to introduce laws to control prices and distribution as are required by local conditions.

ACTION OF GOODS INSPECTOR, BELANGUNJ STATION, AGRA IN THE MATTER OF SHORT SUPPLY OF FUEL AND COAL

58. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government are aware

(a) that the Goods Inspector of the Belangunj Station, Agra, frequently prevents the arrival of fuel and coal at that Station by wiring to the District Traffic Manager, Jhansi that there is no space for unloading these things at the Station,

(b) that the lack of space is due to about hundred wagon goods of Timber Merchants lying there at the Station, and

(c) do Government propose to remove this disability in respect of the delivery of fuel and coal at the Belangunj Station so as to help the general public in getting the needed supply of these basic necessities?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The G. I. P. Railway Administration have been asked to conduct an enquiry into this matter, the result of which is awaited. A detailed reply will be placed on the table of the House as soon as information is available.

HARIANA EXPRESS TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI AND HISSAR

59. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if Government are aware that till about four years ago a train called the Haryana Express used to run between Delhi and Hissar via Rewari (metre gauge) which was most convenient to the travelling public and least expensive to them in time and money?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, the service was discontinued in 1941 in pursuance of the general policy of curtailing all but the most essential passenger services during the war.

DIRECT TRAINS BETWEEN DELHI AND BHATINDA VIA REWARI.

60. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if Government are aware that previously direct trains ran between Delhi and Bhatinda via Rewari, whereas there are no such trains now and that the absence of such trains causes much inconvenience to the travelling public?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, one train a day each way was run on the metre gauge line between Delhi and Fazilka via Rewari, Hissar and Bhatinda. This service was discontinued in April 1941. It is realised that the curtailment of this service causes inconvenience to certain sections of the public but the curtailment of any service must necessarily result in inconvenience.

THIRD CLASS TICKETS FROM DELHI TO BHATINDA BY THE AHMEDABAD EXPRESS.

61. Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if Government are aware that no tickets are issued to travellers from Delhi towards Bhatinda side by the Ahmedabad Express though direct bogies (third class) are attached for Bhatinda?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: This is not now the case as with effect from 1st September 1946 through tickets have been issued to passengers from Delhi to Bhatinda and other stations in that direction by the Ahmedabad Express, to which through third class bogies are attached for Bhatinda.

COMPOSITE CARRIAGE IN NIGHT TRAIN BETWEEN HISSAR AND DELHI

62 Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if Government are aware that previously a composite of first and second class and a third class carriage used to be attached to night train between Hissar and Delhi and that at present no such arrangements is in existence?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, a bogie composite 1st, 2nd and 3rd class carriage was formerly attached to each of the following trains between Delhi and Hissar:

From Delhi	Dep. 22 35 hours
From Rewari	Dep. 1 55 "
From Hissar	Dep. 20 12 "
From Rewari	Dep. 3 48 "

This arrangement was cancelled due to the shortage of coaching stock.

EXPENSES OF JOURNEY BETWEEN HISSAR AND DELHI

63 Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that previously a person travelling by the Haryana Express from Hissar to Delhi and back used to spend Rs. 2/4 and about five hours in time, whereas at present double the money and time are spent to perform the said journey?

(b) Do Government propose to affording again the conveniences extended by the Haryana Express Service to the travelling public between Hissar and Delhi?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes, the single fare between Delhi and Hissar by the Haryana Express, which carried only third class passengers, was Rs. 1-2-0, and the return fare Rs. 2-4-0. The scheduled time, however, from Delhi to Hissar was 6 hours and 10 minutes and from Hissar to Delhi 6 hours and 1 minute. The present third class single fare is Rs. 2-11-0. The current scheduled timings from Delhi to Hissar are 8 hours and 25 minutes by one train, 9 hours and 22 minutes by another, and 8 hours and 35 minutes by a third. In the reverse direction, the timings are 8 hours and 16 minutes, 9 hours and 22 minutes, and 10 hours and 5 minutes respectively.

(b) This will not be possible in the near future. At a recent meeting of the Ajmer Branch Local Advisory Committee, the Administration's proposals regarding the order in which pre-war services should be restored on the metre gauge as stock becomes available, were considered and the Committee agreed that the restoration of the Haryana Express should be given a relatively low priority since war-time cancellations had been more seriously felt on other sections of the railway.

DIRECT TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI AND BHATINDA *via* KWARA

64 Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if Government propose to take steps to arrange that at least one direct train runs between Delhi and Bhatinda *via* Kwarā and that a bogey, and composite of second and first class are attached to night trains between Delhi and Hissar as before?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Railway Administration have stated that these matters will be investigated.

FACILITIES FOR IMPORT INTO GUJRAT OF BUILDING STONES FROM STATIONS ON THE NIZAM STATE RAILWAY, THE G I P AND THE M & S M RAILWAYS

65 Mr. Mohammad M Killedar Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state

(a) whether a large quantity of stones from Tandun, Navagi and other stations on the Nizam State Railway Wadi and Shahabad on the G I P Railway and Araguntla on the M S Railway was imported into Gujrat for building purposes,

(b) whether the traffic was closed during the war time,

(c) whether the Honourable Member is aware that there is a great demand of these stones in Gujrat, and that merchants are not granted facilities for import,

(d) the reasons for not allowing the stones to be imported into Gujrat, and

(e) whether there is any special reason for not opening the traffic though the war is over for more than a year?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Assuming that the stations meant are Tandun and Navagi on H E H the Nizam's State Railway, Wadi and Shahabad on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and Yerraguntla on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, then it is confirmed that these are stone producing centres whence stone is despatched to many parts of India. The normal sources of supply for Gujrat, however, are the Kotah and Dhaura areas which are conveniently placed and movements from further south were never heavy.

(b) Yes, Sir, in the sense that preference was given to 'short-distance movements in the interests of conserving transport.

(c), (d) and (e) The position is that movements of stone ordinarily carry Class V(b) priority. Movements on account of Government, however, as also programmed movements shown to be urgent and essential are accorded Class III priority. Class III priority is accorded on application to the Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities concerned. There is no embargo on movements of stone to Gujrat from the stations mentioned in (a) and it is free to move in Class V(b), but it is a fact that movements in Class V(b) into the Gujrat area have been difficult for some time, partly as a result of civil disturbances. Until a few days ago the Transport Department had received no application for the traffic to be accorded any higher priority. Certain applications have just now been received, however, and these are under consideration.

SHORTAGE OF MATCHES IN BENGAL

66 Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of matches in Bengal

(b) the reasons for such shortage; and

(c) what steps are being taken for relieving the situation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a), (b) and (c) With your permission, Sir, I would reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question together. Government have ascertained that the shortage of matches in Bengal is not really acute. The difficulties that have been experienced in obtaining matches recently are probably due to the disturbances in Calcutta and the mofussil rendering it difficult for retailers to obtain their stocks and also inducing purchasers to obtain supplies in excess of their needs for hoarding. There was some fall in output due to labour trouble at the Wimco Works and shortage of coal. The labour troubles are now over and the production centres have resumed or will soon resume normal production. Messrs Wimco are also taking steps to obtain an extra allocation of coal.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

POLICE RUNNING GUARDS ON TRAIN SERVICES ON E I AND O T RAILWAYS IN BENGAL AND BIHAR

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether Government propose to issue a statement about the dislocation of train service and difficulties of booking goods on the East Indian and

12 Noon Oudh and Tirhut Railways in Bengal and Bihar areas?

(b) Have the Railway authorities increased the Police Running Guards in train services for safeguarding the lives of the passengers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) There has been very serious dislocation of both Passenger and Goods services on the East Indian Railway as a result of the disturbances in Bengal and Bihar.

As the Honourable Member is aware, the disturbances in Bengal started in the middle of August and continued during September. There was a recrudescence of the disturbances in Calcutta in the last week of October and at the same time serious disturbances started in Bihar causing considerable dislocation of Passenger and Goods services on the Dinapore Division. From the 17th to the 19th August a number of Calcutta Local trains and trains on the Calcutta Chord Railway were cancelled and the Workmen's train for Lillooah Workshops was also cancelled on the 17th August.

During the period 16th August to the 9th September, the Up and Down Delhi Express trains started from and terminated at Howrah instead of Sealdah. From the 20th to 23th August, there was also a heavy exodus of up-country inhabitants from Calcutta and the East Indian Railway was called upon to run 16 special trains to cope with this traffic.

There was considerable loss of merchandise due to non-delivery of consignments valued at about Rs. 50,000 and 100 consignments of perishables and luggage valued at about Rs. 12,000 were stolen.

Throughout the disturbances, there was also a very high percentage of absenteeism amongst the staff.

From the 26th October to the 9th November 1946, a large number of trains were cancelled on the Calcutta Chord Railway and a number of trains from Howrah were either cancelled, diverted or suffered very heavy detentions.

As regards the dislocation of train services in Bihar during the recent disturbances, from the 1st of November to the 9th November, nine Express and Passenger trains were stalled for the night at various stations on the Dinapore Division and five trains were diverted from the Main Line to via the Grand Chord. A number of Passenger and Goods trains also had to be cancelled.

Between the 30th of October and the 4th November, three trains were attacked by riotous mobs resulting in deaths of several railway employees. The worst instance of this was when the workmen's train from Sultanganj was attacked between Jamalpur and Bararpur on the 4th November and ten women and one child were killed.

As a result of the cancellations and delays to Goods trains, a complete restriction has been imposed on booking of Goods on the Main Line between Jamalpur and Moghalsera, on the Grand Chord between Gaya and Moghalsera and on the Patna-Gaya and other Branches in Bihar. Booking has also been stopped to Bhagalpur, Jamalpur and Monghyr stations and stations between Jamalpur and Kiul. These restrictions do not, however, apply to food grains and piece goods.

Trifre between the East Indian Railway and O T Railway has also been seriously affected by the disturbances.

The O T Railway has also been affected by the disturbances in Bihar but the difficulties experienced have been caused by acute nervousness on the part of the staff, particularly the running staff, rather than to actual incidents. There has been some dislocation of Goods services by the cancellation of night running of Goods trains on the Main Line for a short period, but there has been no dislocation of Passenger train services.

The main centres of tension have been at the important Junction Stations of Chupra, Barauni and Mokamehghat. The riots in the Chupria area started on the 25th October and caused considerable nervousness among the running staff serving that station, resulting in serious detentions to and cancellations of Goods trains between the 26th and the 31st October.

At Mokamehghat which is the main transshipment point between the East Indian Railway and O T Railway, on the South Bank of the Ganges, there has been great difficulty in getting the staff to report for duty and the transshipment work has suffered and is still suffering in consequence.

Barauni Junction, an important station on the O T Railway which deals with traffic via Mokamehghat on the north side of the river, was also affected, and the staff was nervous due to continual tension.

Apart from detentions and cancellations of Goods trains on the Main Line between Barauni and Savan, it has not been found necessary to restrict Goods booking and Passenger services have been more or less normal.

(b) All action that could be taken by the Railway Administrations for the protection of train services in the affected areas, was taken by them. Additional police has been obtained where available for protecting passenger trains.

On the East Indian Railway, Armed Police Guards have been provided as required on platforms of certain stations in the affected areas in Bengal. These Guards were provided after the first few incidents had taken place. Armed Police Guards are escorting all passenger trains in the affected areas in Bihar. On the outbreak of disturbances in Bihar and when train services were interfered with the Bihar Government were approached for additional protection for trains. As soon as the necessary force could be deployed such protection was given, and trains are now running with armed escorts.

On the O T Railway, Police protection has been provided on all goods trains, but it is not considered necessary to provide such protection for passenger trains. Sheds and other key points in the affected areas have also been protected. Owing to the difficulty of working of Ferry service at Mokamehghat due to high percentage of absentees, Police and Military authorities concerned have been asked to provide an Armed Guard of 25 men in order to strengthen confidence amongst the staff.

I may also mention that Government are actively considering the provision of Special Armed Forces for the protection of railway property, staff, and the travelling public, and are also examining the question of enhancing punishments for certain offences against the safety of Railways.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Did the Honourable Member receive any information that the railways staff at Mogulserai gave notice to the authorities that they would not travel unless better provision was made for safeguarding their lives?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have already covered that point very fully.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that on the Bengal Assam Railway on the 27th October at a place only a furlong off from the Dacca railway station, a passenger train was stopped by pulling the chain and a large number of persons armed with deadly weapons attacked passengers belonging to a particular community and killed 40 of them and injured a large number of others and also kidnapped and abducted away a large number of women and children?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I should like to have notice of that question for the simple reason that the information asked for rather concerns the Provincial Government. I said that I could not tell the House the number of times the alarm chain was pulled to stop trains. As to what happened afterwards is entirely beyond my province. It is for the Provincial Government to find out and give the information.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know whether the Railway Department has in its possession up to date information and estimate regarding the losses that have taken place in the different railways in respect of human lives, in respect of property and in respect of railway employees?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have fully dealt with that point in my reply to a question by Mr Neogy. Probably it was in my answer to question No 30 or 31. I would refer my Honourable friend to my reply to that question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the press report that an attack was made at Dasna the other day on a train carrying pilgrims from Garhmukteshwar? If so, what has been the death toll and the number of injured and whether any relief measures were taken by the Railway Administration in that connection? May I also know what is being done about the property of those persons which was left behind?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: My Honourable friend has already sent a short notice question on the subject which I shall answer either tomorrow or the day after.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: May I enquire, Sir, and seek your guidance on a point? You were good enough to tell us in connection with a notice of an adjournment motion that these matters related to the Provinces. Is the Honourable Member right in answering these questions with all these details?

Mr. President: There are two questions. Some are matters relating to Delhi Province and some refer to incidents outside the Delhi Province. So far as Delhi province is concerned the Government of India would be responsible, but so far as other matters relating to provinces are concerned, the other day I made a distinction between the responsibility of the Railways so far as any accidents or loss of life or property on account of anything inherently defective in the Railway Administration and the preservation of peace or matters relating to police, which will be matters within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Governments. That distinction has been kept up even today by the Honourable Member while replying, when he said that so far as other incidents such as pulling of chains are concerned, they will be a provincial matter.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Stealing goods from station yards and so on would come under the police administration of the provinces.

Mr. President: I do not propose to enter into a discussion over this matter. The questions are hypothetical and problematical. If such questions do arise, I will then consider as to how far they are admissible or otherwise.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Dasna station is in the U P. and not in Delhi Province.

Mr. President: If that is so, it further strengthens my case. I suppose Gh. Zahad is also in the U P. Then of course it is more clear. I was told that it was in Delhi Province. But I was not referring to any particular station. I was making a general statement, viz. whenever a question comes within the province of Delhi, the Central Government will be responsible.

LECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I move:

"That the non-official members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, one member to be a member of the Committee on Public Accounts in place of the mover whose elected seat on the Committee has become vacant."

Mr. President: The question is

"That the non-official members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, one member to be a member of the Committee on Public Accounts in place of the mover whose elected seat on the Committee has become vacant."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purposes of election of one Member to the Committee on Public Accounts, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 13th November and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Friday, the 18th November. The election, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

INDIAN TEA CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sir, I introduce the Bill

PANTH PIPLODA LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Sir Pheroze Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Panth Piploa Laws Regulation, 1929

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Panth Piploa Laws Regulation, 1929"

The motion was adopted

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Sir, I introduce the Bill

INDIAN NAVY DISCIPLINE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Secretary, Defence Department) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act, 1934

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act, 1934"

The motion was adopted

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 be taken into consideration"

Sir, with regard to this motion there is not very much that I have to place before Honourable Members. The case for passing such a legislation has been clearly stated in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill.

Section 31 of the Reserve Bank of India Act provides that no bills of exchange payable to bearer on demand will be issued by any bank or any other private association. It was noticed at the beginning of this year that a certain bank had issued what it called negotiable saving certificates which was for a certain period after which it became, like a promissory note, payable on demand. It was felt that the Government should prohibit the issue of such promissory notes, and consequently an Ordinance was promulgated on the 18th May 1946. This Ordinance expires on the 18th of November this year and it has been

[Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan]

considered necessary to make permanent provision against the issue of such artifices or promissory notes. It is undesirable that such notes should be allowed to be issued by banks or other firms which may ultimately become like the government currency of the country. Apart from that, it would help those who want to practise fraudulent methods and in this way they would be able to evade taxation because they could go to the bank, hand over a certain amount of money and get these promissory notes payable to bearer, which really becomes payable on demand after the period stated therein has expired and therefore it would be difficult to get hold of such people. Apart from that, the issue of such notes would be an encouragement to black marketeers because this would be the easiest way of doing away with the money and hiding it from being accounted for. Therefore in the interests of the country it has been considered necessary that a provision should be made in the Act itself as a permanent measure prohibiting banks or other institutions from issuing such promissory notes. I hope that the House will agree with me that it is necessary that such a provision should exist, and as I stated before there is not very much for me to say in support of this proposition which I have placed before the House.

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 be taken into consideration."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) : Sir, I rise to support the motion.

Mr. President: Before the Honourable Member rises, may I know whether honourable members who have tabled amendments are going to move them? Mr. Jaffer is absent. Mr. Sanyal.

Mr. Saganka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) : No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, I rise to support the motion which has been moved by the Honourable Finance Member. I think the grounds which he has stated for taking such measures are there. It is not only tax-dodgers who do not wish to disclose to government their full assets and the black-marketeers who want to lock up their funds in something of value as when the thousand-rupee notes were withdrawn. There is a third aspect to it which I would just mention in passing, and that is, that the public itself must be protected against the issue of anything which savours of promissory notes payable on demand, because if these notes are in circulation in large numbers, through the ignorance of the public and that particular institution issuing these notes gets weaker and weaker, as it has happened in other countries, the public who hold and the final holders of these notes are also prejudiced, and therefore I consider this particular provision is absolutely essential, and I trust that this House will pass this motion without sending it to Select Committee or for circulation.

There is only one other aspect of it which I would like to bring to the notice of the government that there are other documents which could be put to the same use, to which the documents referred to in this Bill could be put. These are bearer bonds and bearer securities on the one hand, and there are fixed deposit receipts which ought not to be transferable but which in many cases, by the usage of the banking business in this country, are made transferable to specific names or to blank names, so that any name can be put in on the last date and the party can secure, after the due date when the deposit receipts mature, payment thereof any party whose name might appear can get payment, but if the name is blank any third party could put his name and cash the thing and it would serve the same purpose. I would request government to let the Reserve Bank examine thoroughly the position of documents which are either transferable in themselves as bearer documents or of fixed deposit receipts which become transferable by the inscription at the back "Pay to blank", as soon as the holder of the fixed deposit receipt signs that way. In fact, the House may know that at present the fixed deposit money is collected by my bank—if I have a fixed deposit receipt with a bank A, I tell blank B

"Please collect this money " I merely endorse "Please pay to such and such bank", and bank A has got to pay to my bank That is a legitimate use of the facility of transfer But there is an illegitimate use of the facility of transfer in the direction in which the Finance Member referred, and I commend to government that suggestion I trust the House will pass this Bill without delay

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (Dacca cum Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural) Sir, while supporting the passage of this Bill like my predecessor, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Finance Member to one thing which I do not clearly understand I refer to clause 2(2) which reads

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, no person in British India other than the Bank or, as expressly authorised by this Act, the Central Government shall make or issue any promissory note expressed to be payable to the bearer of the instrument "

I refer to the expression "as expressly authorised by this Act " Why are these words necessary here? If those words are omitted, I think the meaning will be the same Unless explained, this phrase seems to me to be awkwardly redundant If this phrase is omitted then I think the meaning is quite clear I would like to have an explanation of this

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, there is nothing novel in the words "as expressly authorised by this Act " Under the Reserve Bank Act, the Reserve Bank has been given powers to issue bearer promissory notes, all the currency notes we have are bearer promissory notes payable on demand When the Central Government is advised or is authorised to issue notes, it must be expressly authorised in a particular manner It is not as if the Central Government can issue bearer promissory notes payable on demand with all the latitude as the Reserve Bank has been given in this particular matter That is why it is suggested there "as expressly authorised by this Act "

There is another point as to why we ought to support this Bill You will remember that during the end of the last Assembly session, the budget session, the previous Finance Member introduced a Bill to levy duties on estates, as death duties This is a device—bearer bonds payable to the bearer on demand—to get over it and to avoid death duties That device was sought to be prevented by the provisions of section 31 in the Reserve Bank Act already, if it is payable on demand, but there a further device was invented by making payable on demand pronotes after a particular period, and this Bill is seeking to avoid such payments on demand even after particular periods Therefore there ought to be no objection to the passage of this Bill

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: There is nothing much I have to say except that the wording that is here with regard to section 2 is exactly the same as it is in the Reserve Bank of India Act, clause 31 It also struck me in the same way as it struck my Honourable friend over there but when I examined it, it was all right and did not require any change

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration "

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill

Clause 1 was added to the Bill

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I move

"That the Bill be passed "

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be passed "

The motion was adopted

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES (TEMPORARY POWERS) BILL

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Industries and Supplies).—
Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill to provide for the continuance during a limited period of powers to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain commodities be taken into consideration"

Briefly what this Bill tries to do is to put in the form of an Act of the Legislature the provisions which are already contained in an Ordinance which deals with the same matter. There is only one point regarding which the Bill proposes to vary the provisions of the Ordinance. That provision is in regard to control being exercised over actual undertakings. At present as the Ordinance stands, that control relates only to the subject of coal but in the Bill the control if and when the necessity for it arises might be extended also to the other articles covered by the Bill. Personally I do not think that the occasion would necessarily arise in respect of the great majority of those commodities but in order to make the control effective and comprehensive it is desirable that this provision should be put into the Bill.

Now, Sir, the House has, more than once, when questions relating to control arose, expressed its concern regarding the whole subject, that is to say whether in principle control should be continued now that the emergency of war ceased and whether its administration has been on the whole to the benefit of the community. I propose therefore to deal with the general subject of control in the few remarks which I wish to place before the House. The thing to remember with regard to control is that the whole case for it rests on the fact that the problem of inflation is still with us. We see no indications that it is going to be less acute in the very near future. The indications are that it is going to remain with us for a longer period of time than many of us had anticipated. What inflation amounts to is briefly this, that when you have a large amount of money in circulation and therefore a high degree of purchasing power concentrated in the hands of a relatively small number of people and over against it you have an acute shortage of goods, then the inevitable result is that unless the community steps in and exercises control those whose resources are limited are likely to be left out in the scramble. That, I think, is a situation which the Government cannot possibly tolerate and that in a nutshell is the whole case for control. Now, last year many of us had hoped that with the cessation of war expenditure it will be possible for us to have in this country on the whole a downward trend of prices and the problems connected with inflation would not be so severe as they still are. That anticipation for various reasons has not materialised. We see no indication that the general level of prices in the country has fallen or is falling. On the other hand the shortage of goods still continues to be acute. Our productive capacity has not been increased and what capacity there is has not been wholly in operation. Although the import position is slightly better, the conditions prevailing in other countries are such that in regard to essential commodities the surplus available in a country like ours are likely to be limited and therefore we are up against the same problem as that which faced us last year and the years before and that is the reason why this control should continue. The provision of Parliamentary legislation, in pursuance of which it is possible to pass this Bill prescribes a certain limited period for measures passed under it. The period is briefly this—this will continue for a period of 12 months from the official declaration of cessation of hostilities unless the Governor General by public notification extends it for a further 12 months. If thereafter it becomes necessary to continue it there should be a Resolution by both Houses of Parliament. The period could be extended by a Resolution of Parliament but then the whole period will be subject to a limit of five years altogether from the cessation of hostilities. Sir, I submit that the conditions in India are such today that in regard to commodities which are essential in the sense that they enter into general consumption or they are commodities which are essential to the production of such commodities it is necessary in view of the fact that the capacity for

purchasing these things is relatively concentrated in the hands of a small number of people, that the State should continue to be armed with powers for rectifying the serious inequalities which otherwise might result. Now, as far as I can understand the position, the objection to the system of control has not so much been to the principle of it. It has been very much more to the way in which the control has been administered. It has often been said when you introduce control you are providing room for black marketing. If you did not have a system of control, there would be no incentive for people to drive goods underground and to pass them into the black market. Therefore, if you want to eliminate black marketing you ought to eliminate control. I have heard this argument used over and over again. May I say with great respect that that argument does not really touch the essence of the matter. That argument is generally used by people who, if I may say so, do not see far enough. The real point is this. Whenever you have a law there is bound to be breaches of that law. Crime in a sense is a corollary to law and in the same way black marketing is a corollary to control. If because of black marketing you want to eliminate control, you must just as well argue that because of crime you must eliminate law altogether. Personally, I do not think the argument goes deep enough.

But the real objection which practical people have raised is, that in the way in which control has been administered, it has been administered unfairly to certain groups or sections of the community. It has probably been administered not merely unfairly, but it has been administered ineffectively.

I quite recognise from what examination I have made of the subject of control that it is possible to maintain that in certain respects our administration of control has been ineffective and that it has caused unfairness to certain interests in the country. My reply to that is that whatever unfairness and whatever ineffectiveness there has been in regard to the administration of control, these inconveniences, this unsettlement and dislocation, are things which the Legislature and the country have got to put up with in the larger interests of the country. In all countries control has been difficult to administer satisfactorily. It is particularly difficult in a country like ours, and I will tell you why. In our country we have got to put into operation system of control through an administrative system which has grown up through the years upon a tradition which has been largely negative in character. That is to say, we have at present an administrative organisation built up over a period of years whose main business has been to prevent things being done that is to maintain law and order. It is a police government on the foundation of which you have got to erect a system of regulation rather than prevention. It is going to be a difficult business. But if because of that you are going to surrender the whole principle and system of control, then it seems to me you are choosing a bigger evil in preference to a lesser one.

It is not merely that our administrative system has essentially a negative outlook and is incapable of handling the more positive side of administration with the success which the difficult conditions of today call for. There is another difficulty. After all is said and done, to people who have studied the systems of public administration in different parts of the world one of the most striking things about Indian administration is that the quantum of Indian administration is much smaller than the problems of the country require. The trouble in our country is not so much that we are badly administered as that we are under-administered. It is possible to remedy the under-administration of the country by the institution of an effective system of local self government. Local committees of various kinds with the necessary public spirit and organisation could do a good deal to supplement the deficiencies of administration. There is no doubt about that. In a country like England, I suppose, what makes up for the relative small quantum of administration is the successful local self-governing system they have there. In regard to controls of this kind, it will be a very great help if we could muster sufficient local help to assist the

[Dr. John Matthai]

bureaucracy to administer them. But the fact remains that at present we are short of that kind of thing. But, as I said at the beginning, we have got to put up with it for some time to come and all that I can say in reply to these criticisms is this. We are trying in the matter of controls a process of ~~very~~ experimentation. We have not tried this thing before. The fact is that we are proceeding in this matter by trial and error. If Honourable Members have read the note which I circulated along with the Bill, they will find that in many cases we are still groping in the dark.

In regard to the scope of these controls, in some cases it is possible for us with reference to the circumstances of the commodity in question to institute control right from the point of origin to the point of ultimate consumption. In regard to other commodities, we are not in a position to do that and therefore control has got to stop at some intermediate point. It is unsatisfactory to that extent, but the difficulties of the situation have got to be reckoned with. Similarly, if you take the methods of control, they also vary from commodity to commodity. In regard to the very important matter, for example, of the method of pricing, you adopt one method of pricing regarding cloth and you adopt another method of pricing regarding steel and a third in regard to other commodities. The thing cannot be helped. It seems to me that in a matter of this kind, the wisest thing to do is to proceed empirically, that is to say, to proceed by experience. It is only on a basis of actual experience in this very difficult field of organisation that we shall be able ultimately to have a system of control which will be really effective.

Since this Bill, if passed into law, is not likely to last for more than a very limited period, I hope the House will accept my assurance that while we are engaged in this process of experimentation if any complaints and criticisms come from Honourable Members of the House, so long as I am in charge of the Department I will make every effort to see that the complaints and criticisms are adequately met. Every suggestion which Members may make in this matter will be welcomed by Government.

May I conclude on this note? I see that there is an amendment on the paper suggesting that the matter might be referred to a Select Committee. I would beg my Honourable friend not to press his amendment. Considering the terrific inequality that prevails in the country, particularly at present, in the matter of income and purchasing power, and the difficulties and hardships to which the poorer sections of the community might be put unless the Government as the organised expression of community was armed with necessary powers, I feel that when matters of this kind come up before the House, the House, is really on its trial. I think by its attitude to measures of this kind the House will be judged as regards its truly representative character. If I may say so in conclusion, if the attitude of the House is going to be that this Bill, so limited in scope and in its duration, is to be rejected or impeded or delayed, I venture to say very respectfully that it would not merely stultify but condemn itself.

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to provide for the continuance during a lun control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade in commodities be taken into consideration."

May I have the position made clear about the amendments? There are two alternative amendments in the name of Mr. Jaffer.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural). In view of the assurance given by the Honourable Member, I do not wish to move my amendments.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay European). Sir, on behalf of the European Group, I support the Motion before the House. I do so with certain reservations to which I shall make reference later, though, I admit that the Honourable Mover in his very lucid speech has dealt with some of the difficulties

which I foresaw, but that will not deter me from making further reference to them. I support the Bill because whilst my Group consider that in times where supply and demand are more or less equal factors, the economic life of the country should be unfettered by official interference, nevertheless when there is disparity between these factors of supply and demand, when, because of a short fall in supply, encouragement is given to the individual to exploit his neighbour, then we agree that controls are not only desirable but absolutely essential. If, Sir, there is any Member of the House who would condemn the provisions of this Bill out of hand, I would draw his attention to what happened when the control of steel was removed as early as, I think, April this year, what happened to the supplies that were previously available when that control was removed. But, Sir, as necessary as controls are under the circumstances, I have described, they can only achieve their purpose and bring credit to the administration operating them if such administration is efficient and has clean hands. Is Government confident that its administrative machinery in this respect is efficient and incorruptible? If not then, Sir, I suggest that the whole machinery is overhauled and the sooner it is the better it will be for the good of the country and for the prestige of the Government. While at this juncture, I do not propose to deal with any provisions of the Bill, there are one or two matters to which I would like to draw attention. The tenor of the Bill is, as is described in Clause 1(3), and as the Honourable Member has asserted, the tenor will be as is provided in section 4 of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946. Now, Sir, I think that that may have confused some Honourable Members of the House, and I must admit that until I saw this, I did not know that it was an Act of the Imperial Legislature. I think I am correct in saying that my Honourable friend Mr Joshi was in the same ignorant category as myself. The Bill provides that certain things be done under a Notified Order and as clause 2(d) of the definition shows, 'notified order' means an order notified in the official Gazette. Now, Sir the Bill provides for penalties for those who disobey these provisions, and many of the people affected by the Bill will not know what the official Gazette is nor are they likely to understand it if they were to see it, and as it is desirable that good relations should exist between the administration and the persons who will be affected by the provisions of the Bill, many of whom are illiterate, I suggest that directions be given to administrative officers and particularly to subordinate officers who will be in personal contact, particularly with cultivators and producers, that the provisions of the Bill when it is placed on the statute book should be administered intelligently and sympathetically. I make reference to this because many of us who live in Bombay will recollect what I think can justifiably be described as a very stupid action on the part of the Government of Bombay some two or three years ago in regard to returns of foodgrains from grain shops of industrial concerns. The firms that were concerned had, and at some considerable expense to themselves, started grain shops for the benefit of their employees and in a number of instances before official rationing was commenced. When the official rationing orders were passed, individual communications were sent to the firms, giving them various directions as to how the foodgrain returns were to be submitted to Government. Without any warning, the Government abandoned these individual communications and resorted to notified orders. These orders were, of course, issued in the Government Gazette. One of the orders related to the submission of returns weekly instead of monthly as had been the practice heretofore and because a number of firms were unaware of the altered provisions, although they were submitting their returns monthly and with complete accuracy, wholesale prosecutions against managers of foodgrain shops many of them old and respected employees of the companies concerned, were launched, they were brought before the courts and fined. An appeal was subsequently lodged in the High Court and Government was ordered to refund the fines. If that could happen with intelligent people, people who can afford the expense of preferring an appeal what is going to be the lot of illiterate people, producers and

[Mr. Leslie Gwilt]

cultivators I hope, Sir, that whilst Government will impose with utmost rigour the provisions of the Bill against those who deliberately offend its provisions, they will nevertheless issue orders that intelligence and sympathy is exercised in dealing with such persons as have the spirit to help, but have not got the education to appreciate

In this connection, Sir, may I ask Government whether they will study the provisions of the Australian law which lays down minimum sentences on certain classes of offences and particularly for blackmarket offences. I feel, Sir, that frequently the judiciary impose far too light sentences in case of black-marketing, which after all is an anti-social crime of the most heinous order. Usually it is the small men who are prosecuted, but when the big operators are caught, the sentences they receive are frequently extremely light for very serious offences. As I have said, Sir, with these reservations, I support the Bill.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) You will notice, Sir, that all of us have put a voluntary restraint on our usual loquacity with regard to Bills, otherwise a Bill of this magnitude would be debated in this House for about five or six days. I congratulate the Honourable Member on not only a very lucid and clear exposition of the problem of controls, but what is much more noticeable, on the very disarming speech from the point of view of Members of the Assembly who are jealous of the powers of this House and who are generally suspicious of wide powers being taken by Government. And, not only, Sir, is the personnel of this Government one which we fully trust, but the particular attitude taken by the Honourable Member on this occasion on this very debatable and big subject is one which as I said is completely disarming and reassuring. He did not, for instance, claim that Government's control measures were all successful. On the contrary he said that it was a matter of trial and error that we must use the empirical method and we must keep on at it until we strike the right note, and that is the only method. The other alternative of abandoning these methods is one which by implication he deprecated and I join in the note. This country has

I. F. M. to make up its mind whether it wants the so-called economic freedom, that is to say, complete economic anarchy, leaving it free for anybody to do anything he likes to anybody else, whether we want economic freedom of this kind internally or whether we want a planned economy, whether we want a state of affairs in which it is for the Government with such assistance as they can get from informed opinion, to lay down which objectives come first, in what priority this country desires to achieve certain results, which is the class most ground down and therefore deserving of the utmost and immediate help. It is in a system of planned economy in which a plan and programme is made as to what must be done here and now in the matter of a few months and what must be done and must be achieved and looked for in a period of five years and ten years. If this country accepts the principle that we shall be dealt with on the basis of a planned economy we must eschew the idea that economic freedom from interference by Government, is the best and proper method of building up the economic life of this country. I do not wish to emphasise the antagonism too much, I am sure planned economy does not mean that Government regulates at what time I shall drink a glass of water and what I shall do at 2 o'clock. Planned economy must imply interference with the people to the extent to which it is considered necessary in the community's interest. And therefore I take it that while Government may arrogate to themselves the powers which they are taking from this, they will not interfere where they are not definitely convinced that it is necessary. On the other hand they must interfere and it is their duty to interfere where they think that but for such interference there will be confusion or there will be exploitation of one particular section or there will be the creation of high prices, which is also a factor that they must keep in mind.

Now, Sir, in the past—and this is an accusation which I have made in this House several times—controls were put very largely in the interests of the allied

Governments and of the United Kingdom Government who wanted to buy enormous quantities of goods in this country and in order to see that those goods did not cost them too high. That was—I allege again—the principal objective of the past Government when they put some of these controls. The consumer and the producer came in incidentally. The poor producer did not get anywhere in some cases and the consumer came in incidentally. I will illustrate my point. The producers of tea got 5½ to 8 annas per pound when the world price was 6 to 8 rupees, the producer of rubber missed the world market and his goods were taken away at 12 annas when the world price was Rs. 10, today again rubber has fallen to 14 annas. In other words, the controls were there, as I said, in the interests not only of the bulk purchases by our Government which would be justifiable, but also in the bulk purchases by foreign Governments not only for army purposes but for their civil populations. Now, therefore, I would urge on this Government to use these controls with discrimination and see whether it is necessary to use them in the interests of the producer and in the interests of the consumer and lastly—the most dominant consideration—to see whether they must be used in the interests of the community as a whole.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies has not claimed a very marked success for these control measures in the past, and we only trust that the measures taken hereafter in peace time, with less distraction from military urgencies and so on, will function better. In particular I would emphasise the same point that my Honourable friend Mr. Gwillt emphasised that the human machinery should be overhauled. I have always advocated, and I have found it as a mistake of the past administration, that when important and delicate points like these controls came, they did not use their trusted and tried old employees but recruited new staff for this purpose, which was a stupid mistake. They should have put their old employees who were in Government service or ten or twenty years and had a good record. They should have put these old and tried and trusted servants in charge of these delicate matters, instead of which what they did was to recruit *ad hoc* for this purpose. Whoever came was taken in, he was given wide powers and there was a continuous racket. I may point out a racket which has happened in this connection. The inspectors of this department are going round the market finding out cases where there is a small technical breach of the kind that my Honourable friend Mr. Gwillt referred to. In that particular case I suppose the inspector did not get something from the firms which did not put in weekly returns instead of monthly returns, and in other cases it has become an absolute racket and a vested interest with these inspectors to go round and say, "Look here I have found you doing this and I am going to put you up." But I will come day after tomorrow, you think it over and let me know." In the meanwhile the party thinks it over and says it is worth while giving him a hundred rupees so that he may overlook this small and in many cases purely technical breach which has occurred. This is the human machinery which I am mentioning, and I again commend the suggestion which I have made, namely, that Government should have for this inspectorate staff not new persons whom they have picked up from the sort of men available in the general labour pool of the so-called educated population of this country. It is this particular set which has disgraced the education which they have received and this has been so widespread throughout the country that we are bound to commend to the Honourable Member that while using the powers which he is asking the House to give him he will look into this particular subject. Sir, I was told by a resident of Delhi who is not at the moment in the gallery, that an inspector of *gur* in this place who is getting a salary of Rs. 100 per month has built three houses in three years. That is the human machinery they have got. I therefore say that for these places please pick out the best of your civil servants—I do not mean the I.C.S.—the best of your other servants who had a good record in the past and who are proud of their reasonable service and who will not demean themselves to the extent these men are doing. These men are only squeezing out all advantages to themselves during the period for which they are inspectors, and they expect definitely to be dismissed in due course.

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

In the meantime they want to make what they can. Now he is asking for the same powers—not excessive powers,—and he is asking them for a short time and as an experiment, in the sense that the whole system is one which is in constant process of adjustment. I would suggest another thing, namely, that the information as to the requirements of the public concerned may be spread through the Chambers of Commerce and also on the functioning of each control, and a report may be sent for, or some authority or body concerned with the department may go round the country and meet the Chambers of Commerce people and see whether they have got to say anything about the operation of a particular kind of control and if they have got any suggestions to make.

Then, Sir, in regard to the control in this country we have to see what is happening in other countries. We have this difficulty. As the Honourable Member said, we had a negative administration in the past. Previous Governments were more concerned with just the control of law and order and they did not mind what happens to the chickens in the chicken coop or what happens to sardines in the box. They did not mind what happened to any particular layer of society or population. That is not so with this Government. The greater the weakness of a particular set, the bigger is their obligation to help them.

The only other point on which I would like to detain this House for a minute more topsyturvy than the marked in attention of this Government to longer is with regard to the effect on prices. Sir, there is nothing the state of general level of prices in this country. Our general level of prices is 300 per cent or more than pre-war and in America and England the level is only 147 and 174. The House has heard that President Truman is removing all controls over prices and wages, and people are expecting two consequences—one is that certain prices will tumble down as soon as the controls are removed, and in other cases the expectation is that as soon as the controls are removed, certain prices will go up. I understand both these things can happen. I want our Government also to see to the course of prices of controlled articles. More particularly may I refer to the case of building materials. There is a pent up demand for the last four years and if there was no control over steel and cement or other articles, the prices will soar up very high. In such cases what is needed is consumers' priority so that there may be an orderly disposal of such quantities which are available and the guarantee that these quantities which are available do not fall into the hands of the middlemen because the direct consumer is there ready and willing to take it from you and to pay for it in advance. Therefore, Sir, it is necessary to fix priorities, to eliminate middlemen with regard to these commodities which are definitely declared to be short, and it is necessary to regulate the orderly disposal of such commodities as we have got. I would, Sir, ask the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies not merely to take the control issue in the departmental sense in which unfortunately all our affairs are,—the control issue does not concern him alone—it is the concern also of the Finance Member, it is the concern of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, and so on,—and to see the general trend of prices. Have this Government any deflationary measures already in mind? Have they declared any? Have they thought out what deflationary measures should be taken in order that the general level of prices may fall? If you do not take those deflationary measures, then I submit, that this control proposition will be a permanent thing and it would be very harmful to this country. Therefore, I suggest that the matter should not be thought out compartmentally, but should be taken as a whole and I suggest that the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies should go into the issue which he thoroughly well understands, I am sure, as to what deflationary measures should be taken generally which would affect all prices and which will also incidentally affect the prices of the articles controlled.

Sir, I support the motion.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.
Mr President (the Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non Official) Mr President, while supporting the motion that this Bill be taken into consideration I do not wish to speak much about the necessity of continuing the control. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Supplies has spoken so well on this subject that I do not think I shall be able to add much in support of his measure.

My justification in rising on this occasion is that in the first place I want to express my dissatisfaction that the Government of India removed prematurely many of the controls which were in my judgment still necessary and deprived themselves of powers which they should not have done.

Sir, if you watch the trend of prices in this country, you will easily find that the prices in this country are still rising. The Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies admitted that there still exists inflation in this country. I watch very carefully the cost of living index for the working classes. The index has reached 270 points, more than 25 or even 30 points than what it was at the time of the end of the war. I therefore feel that the Government of India was not justified in removing the controls which they had removed. My special complaint is that they allowed to lapse the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance. That ordinance in my judgment, Mr. President, was absolutely necessary, even at this time, and Government has done a great deal of wrong to the people of this country, especially the poorer sections of the people of this country, by removing the powers which they possessed to deal with hoarding and profiteering. I also feel that the Government of India should have before they removed these controls, and before they divested themselves of these powers, consulted the Legislature on this point. But they have failed to do their duty by the Legislature in not consulting it before removing these controls and divesting themselves of these powers.

I feel, Sir, that the Government of India has failed to do what they should have done. Now, Sir, I am glad that they are bringing forward this Bill and giving an opportunity to this Legislature to consider this question and taking advantage of this Bill, I would like to make some suggestions to the Government of India.

Sir, the controls are necessary and I am glad that the Honourable Member agreed that these controls are necessary. If these controls are to be useful, these controls must be effectively used and applied. The Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies agreed with that also. I want also to suggest that these controls should be fairly used. The Honourable Member also agreed with that. I feel, Sir, although the Honourable Member has agreed with these principles, that these controls should be effectively applied and there should be no discrimination and unfairness. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that as the controls at present exist, they are used ineffectively and there is also a great deal of discrimination.

As regards the effectiveness, we were told that there are difficulties in the way of effectively applying these measures. I would like the Honourable member to remember that although there are difficulties it is for the Government to overcome those difficulties. You certainly require an honest staff and you require the co-operation of the public as the Honourable Member has stated. But it is not beyond the power of the Government to employ good, efficient and honest staff. You may have to pay more and Government should not hesitate to pay the staff whatever is due to them. If you pay your staff well, I think it is possible for you to get good effective, efficient and honest staff.

In the matter of the controls being fairly used, it depends upon the Government of India themselves not to make any discrimination. I do not wish to go into the details of these controls, but one can easily see that the Government of India is afraid of the richer section of the population and they easily do

[Mr N. M. Joshi]

injustice to the poorer people. They are willing to put restrictions on the poorer sections but they are prepared to let go the richer classes. Take sugar; sugar control is absolutely necessary. He agrees with it. Why then exempt the lump sugar? Is there the least justification for exempting lump sugar? The excuse given is that the lump sugar is a separate industry. You have to have one or two more machines in order to make lumps out of the sugar. That may be an excuse but it is not one which can really be accepted. The object was clear, *vis*, that the richer sections of society should have sufficient sugar to eat while the poorer sections should not have. It is not a different kind of industry that required encouragement. The object was that the richer classes should have enough sugar by paying more. I understand that the cubes cost much more than ordinary sugar but they are uncontrolled. This is only a small instance of what I consider to be discrimination.

I may even give you another small instance of this kind of discrimination. Take newsprint, for example. I see that newspapers, especially the influential daily newspapers, publish every day large numbers of pages full of advertisements. I cannot understand why all these advertisements are necessary when newsprint is so very scarce. But if it is a question of some small paper then the control applies and they will hesitate to give sanction for even a small increase in quota. I am not making a complaint which I have to make on the floor of this House but the instance comes to my mind very easily. I have a small paper called *The Trade Union Worker*, which is only 8 or 10 pages of a small size. The number of trade unions which are interested in this paper has increased and on account of the various kinds of legislation which are coming before the legislature I asked that a few more pages be added. It takes a long time for Government to give me sanction to increase those pages. It would almost require a few more pounds of newsprint, not even a few maunds or tons of paper. I am not suggesting that the control is unnecessary. I have pleaded for controls and therefore I do not want to be exempt from these controls but I want fairness. If you can spare large amounts of paper, tons of paper, for these influential dailies, which contain a very large amount of advertisement, then certainly small papers which are useful to a very large number of people should be treated fairly at least. They should not be starved for want of paper.

As regards newsprint, compare India with England. The English newspapers are much smaller even today than the Indian papers. I do not wish to dwell on that point but this is also, another example of discrimination.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are there any Diwali and Pujā Numbers in England?

Mr N. M. Joshi: There are many such things but I do not want to waste the time of the House. Those who have influence get more paper and those who have not, find it difficult to get the paper necessary.

The Government is also not fair in the application of these controls. They give, I think, too much freedom to the provinces. I shall give you instance of my province decontrolling things when there was absolutely no justification. In my own province *gur* has been decontrolled with the result that the poorer people in my province are paying today twice the price for *gur*, while sugar has become practically cheaper than *gur*. This is the way in which controls have been applied. I would like therefore that the Honourable Member should take very vigorous steps to see that the controls which he is applying are effectively used, fairly used and not too much latitude is given to provinces or to different interests. I am glad that the Honourable Member in theory at least agrees with me in all these matters but he will have to take more vigorous steps to see that the controls are properly used. I am not saying this to plead that if he cannot do this he should remove the controls. That is not my standpoint. I quite realise that in spite of his best efforts the Honourable Member may not succeed in removing all the complaints which we have regarding the controls. I would certainly have controls with some inefficiency and with some defects rather than have no controls at all. I know it is said that controls

lead to bribery and corruption among public servants. I would certainly like honest public servants to be in charge of these controls and in view of that I would like the Government of India to pay its servants much more, especially because they have to overcome very large temptations. Let the public servants be paid more and let Government see to it that they get honest service. What those who speak about corruption and bribery of public servants want is that they should profiteer. So I want to make it clear to the Honourable Member that I would like to have controls in spite of a little corruption and bribery which may exist, because I feel that if there is bribery and corruption the public servants may take away some money and it may not be good for the morale of the public services in this country.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural)
That is a redistribution of wealth!

Mr. N. M. Joshi If there is control the public servants may take away some money but if there is no control then private merchants and private capitalists may take away ten times more. Therefore if I were to make a choice between allowing the merchants and capitalists to exploit the people and having some corrupt public servants, I would prefer corrupt public servants to allowing the capitalists to exploit the masses to a ten times greater extent.

One point which my Honourable friend Mr. Mannu Subedar referred to is this and in that connection I would like to ask the Honourable Minister in charge of Industries and Supplies for some information. Mr. Mannu Subedar stated that in view of the fact that we are going to have planned economy these controls are necessary and I have no doubt that the country as a whole wants planned economy. We do not want to leave the development of this country to chances and to the goodwill and efforts of private capitalists and private enterprise without any plan. But it is quite clear that if we are going to have planned economy we shall require controls. I want to know from the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies whether he is making any provision for applying controls where they are necessary on account of our introducing a planned system of economy. I learn from the newspapers that the Government of India have appointed a committee over which my Honourable and esteemed friend Mr. Neogy is to preside, to prepare a plan in two months time for a planned development of this country. If Mr. Neogy is preparing a report in two months time for a planned economy, certainly the Government must be prepared to impose the necessary controls within two months time. I want to know what are the plans of the Government of India in, not only for continuing these controls—because mere continuance will not be sufficient for a planned economy—I want to know what they are doing in taking those powers to exercise controls over the whole of the economy, if we are going to have a planned development. So far as I can understand this legislation, I am told that the Government of India have got power to continue these controls for a year; they may get power again to continue it for a year more, but the power will not exist beyond five years, and then, within this period, the Government of India can by notification remove these controls. I am anxious that the Government of India, if they have no power today, should take steps to secure those powers. If the powers are to be given to them by Parliament—if within a short time we do not get a really independent government and if unfortunately the powers are to be given by Parliament—I would like the Government of India to get from Parliament those powers to not only continue these controls but to apply new controls wherever the application of new controls is necessary. This Bill gives them the power to continue the controls, but they have already decontrolled many articles. I want to ask the Government of India what power they possess to reimpose those controls which they have removed, and if they have got no power to reimpose those controls which they have removed, I want to know what they are going to do to secure power to reimpose controls which they have in my judgment wrongly removed. I want the Government of India to consider this question very seriously and very urgently, because I feel that if we neglect this problem of control the whole economy will be in a state of chaos.

[11TH Nov. 1946]

[Mr N M Joshi]

suffer, and in that suffering the suffering of the poor people will be greater. That is what concerns me more. Therefore, while approving and supporting the measure which is before this legislature, I would like the Government of India in the first place, not to commit the mistake which they have committed before, namely, removing these controls prematurely, secondly, removing these controls without consulting the legislature. If any controls which are to be continued by this Bill are to be removed, I would like the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies to promise us today and to give us an assurance that these controls will not be removed without the sanction of the legislature, without at least consulting the legislature. That assurance I want. I also want an assurance from the Government of India that they will exercise these controls thoroughly and vigorously, impartially, without any discrimination, and fairly.

Lastly I want the Government of India to assure me that in view of the fact that we are going to have a planned economy soon, what steps they are going to take to secure those powers of exercising control which are necessary for making a planned development successful. I support this Bill.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, in spite of the very bitter and bad experience of control regime during the course of the last seven years, I support the Bill that has been introduced and is now for consideration before this House. My main reason is that I see no other alternative before me. If the controls are removed I see nothing but black marketing infact all marketing gone and economic anarchy succeeding. In that case what will happen will be that things will go underground and consequently famine will be the order of the day, the rich will get everything and the poorer sections of the community will have to go without most of the things which they feel essential for the maintenance of their lives. Under a controlled system, however badly it may be worked, as I said just now to the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill privately, there is some hope for some people at some time to get something somewhere. On that hope I lay great stress.

Now, I want to tell the House that in certain matters at least, the Government should not decontrol anything by mere notification, unless as Mr Joshi said they consult this House previously and they are also convinced that as a result of decontrol the poorer sections of the community will not suffer. The great Chinese philosopher Confucius was once asked by the Chinese king as to what were the tests of a good government, and the philosopher said that if there is sufficient food and sufficient clothing and a belief that justice will be done, then it is a good government. I am not today referring to the last, but I do want that this government will at least answer the first two tests and give sufficient food and sufficient clothing to every citizen in this country. As regards food, during the last three or four years there has been some sort of system, and although there is much to complain about, speaking for myself, if there had been no rationing in my city, at least I and my family would have been starved to death absolutely. For I remember in the year 1942 beginning, I just wanted to purchase a few seers of wheat, I visited three shops and they gave me three different quotations. I tried the experiment three times in the course of the day and none talked with the other. But since the rationing system was established, it may not be a balanced diet as was enunciated by my friend Mr Masani, but anyway I am getting at least half a pound of rice a week and a little more by way of wheat, jowari, bajra somehow or other, and most of us can keep our bodies and souls together.

As regards cloth, you will remember that during the discussion on the Finance Bill, when I and most of the members of our party complained against the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax and I asked a specific question of the Finance Member then, whether on the removal of the Excess Profits Tax, the prices of cloth would be reduced, and his answer was that the manufacturers or the millowners themselves in their own interests would do it. Our experience during the past six months has been very different and very bitter. You will be surprised to know that this textile industry has made profits beyond

expectations. If the rate of profit in 1928 is considered 100, the increase has been 761 per cent during 1943-44. Who has suffered as a result of this? Even today, if we closely scrutinise the system under which cloth is distributed, it is the consumer who suffers. The millowners get all they want, and if the Honourable Member in charge were to scrutinise the cost schedule he would find that sometimes the same item is included three times. I am prepared to give him such information, because I am not in the habit of making any statement unless it is well documented. They have been successful in getting the ear of the Government always whenever it is a question of raising the prices. The poor consumer and every one of us is a consumer, although every one is not a producer or a trader, but the pity is that every one of us does not stand up to the situation and frankly speak out what we feel.

In the scheme of control there is practically no limit on profits. If food, if clothing is an article of necessity, without which nobody can live, I think I will be voicing the inmost feelings of most of us that the whole of the industry should be taken over by the Government here and now. It is the primary duty of the Government to feed its citizens and clothe them and if there is the slightest failure in that sphere I think it is a condemnation of the Government. It would have been otherwise if it was the same old government which functioned before a few months. Now that the Government is a popular government with the backing of the people's representatives, whatever may be the form, much is expected of it. I think they have had enough of what is called **3 P M** in England the honeymoon period—enough of it. They can now come down to brass tacks and at least secure us two things which are absolutely essential for human life, namely, enough food and enough clothing.

Now, Sir, the history of control in so far as this poor country is concerned is one of sadness. It comes late. During the time it remains, it is operated. I do not suggest to say deliberately, objectively to the detriment of poorer sections of the community. Then it goes all of a sudden with the result, as has been stated in the very fine note that has been kindly supplied to us by the Honourable Member, that things go out of the market. Cement has gone. In whatever articles we have followed this policy of sudden decontrolling the result has been not what you contemplated. In the budget session during the discussion on the Finance Bill, the Finance Member was good enough to tell us that if houses were built in the course of these two years, their income would not be taken into consideration for the purpose of income tax but where is the material to build. Iron sheets are not available. Iron bars you cannot get although in order to get it you have to spend stationery worth Rs. 20. Cement, you yourself agree, is not there. About non-ferrous metal, after the control is over, it is the same tale. I therefore respectfully submit that this Bill is an attempt let there be no apology for that, to start some control. Some well thought out scheme of control. I would request the Honourable Member boldly to say that this is the first attempt to introduce what may be called a regulatory regime leading ultimately to planned economy. Let him not be apologetic. Let him say boldly, and he will have the verdict of the House in his favour, that the country as a whole stands for nationalisation of most of the industries, at any rate those which concern the necessities of life and this Bill will prepare the way.

Now, Sir, I want to say one thing more, because I do not want to take a long time of the House, for I believe that there must be control of one's speech also. One thing I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Member. We all stand for democracy. I do not believe merely in association of the people's representatives during one stage, namely, the stage of the formulation of the policy. I want him to see that the negative aspect of the bureaucracy that he emphasized today disappears and it assumes a positive social service aspect. That is possible by means of a well thought out system of distribution in which the people's representatives even in the smallest village could be associated, so that much of the middlemen's profits and much of the possibility of black marketing would be removed. Just imagine for one

[Sjt N V Gadgil]

minute as to how many middlemen there are between a mill and the actual consumer and one would find that at least half of them are absolutely unnecessary, except for the fact that at one stage of our country's history or in the history of that particular industry they were there. They are playing no useful function. In fact they are playing anti social role if, Mr. President, you will permit me to use that expression. You are well aware how things are happening in the city from which you are elected. Therefore if the controlled economy is to be successful, it can only be successful if there is co-operation of the people. It does not mean that everything is to be left to the permanent official. In fact the attempt so far has been to put new wine in old bottles. The consumers never counted in the past. He must pay whatever he is asked to pay. Who approaches the officers—the merchants and the middlemen who want to get some permits here and there and if there is any source of corruption of the worst type, it is the trader who is so anxious to get a permit and having got it is very much anxious to sell it to another. If corruption is to be removed, it can only be removed by the co-operation of the people and not otherwise. It is really most shameful for every one of us to refer every now and then to corruption among our officials—our merchants and so on. In fact, it virtually comes to this that the bulk of the community is corrupt. I only wish that this thing should be a matter of history. We are now entering a new order of things and let the services also understand that whatever may have been their outlook up till now they are servants of the people. I remember one of the greatest Englishmen said that the ideal of public service should be integrity, industry and anonymity. Nobody can put it higher than that. I only wish this. So far they have been extremely loyal, even going out of their way, to a Government which was foreign in personnel and in spirit. Now, they have a Government entirely Indian in personnel and in spirit. Would it be too much of them to say that they will rise up to the occasion, will be less bureaucratic, less given to red tape, more prompt to hear the grievances of the people and will show to the world that here in India they have a service which is absolutely incorruptible and claims the confidence and respect of the people? I therefore submit that the task that lies ahead for the Honourable Member is not merely to control but during the three or four or five years during which this order as it is embodied in this Bill stands he will evolve such a spirit in the services and such a spirit in the public that ultimately the inauguration of planned economy will be easier. With these words, I support the motion.

Mr. Tamiruddin Khan (Dacca cum Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural) Mr. President, I must congratulate the Honourable Member for Industries on the happy position that he enjoys today. His Bill, controversial as it is, is going to be passed without any opposition. That is certainly a happy position. But we, some elected Members, are not in such a happy position. Our position is rather unenviable because the people whom we represent are fed up with these controls. They want an immediate withdrawal of all controls. That is the opinion of the man in the street. If I may tell the House about a demand that was made of me by a section of the people who sent me here, it was that the controls must be abolished as early as possible.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) They are all wrong.

Mr. Tamiruddin Khan: I am not giving my views, but their views. We shall have to satisfy these people about the necessity of these controls. Our position is not, therefore, as happy as that of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill. Again, our position has been made all the more difficult on account of two factors. One was the public pronouncement made by the predecessor of the Honourable Member, I mean Mr. Rajagopalachariar who in a speech that he delivered some time ago said that the day was not perhaps far off when there will be an end of these controls. The people about whom I have already spoken looked upon that pronouncement with a good deal of hope but they are going

to be disappointed. Again, we see that in America, as a result of the last elections which have sent the Republicans in a majority in both the Chambers of the American Legislature, the controls are going to be abolished. The world has become so narrow nowadays that the happenings in America also will have their own repercussions in our own country. That is also another disquieting circumstance. But I admit that controls in our country cannot be given up at the present stage. The controls are a necessary evil. Abolish the control of foodstuffs today and there will be famine the next week. There is no doubt about that. The two classes of people whose interests are otherwise mutually antagonistic will co-operate to bring about a famine. They are the wealthy consumers and the profiteers. Wealthy consumers will be in a panic and there will be a scramble to purchase and the profiteers will have their day. These two will co-operate to make a famine sure if the control of foodstuff is abolished. Therefore, controls will have to remain unfortunately. But I do not agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi that there should be more control than there is at present and also that the controls that have been abolished should be re-imposed. Of course there may be some reason which has guided him to make that statement but I would submit that the controls being a necessary evil should be gradually abolished. If we are to swim back to the shore of normality, we shall have to go into the water. Therefore in certain respects we shall have to take risks. But those risks must not be of a character fatal to the existence of the community. Gradually these controls will have to be abolished and they should be abolished last of all on foodstuffs, cloth and perhaps coal. Other controls may be abolished earlier. How that will be done is not an easy task. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Shetkar has said that it will be the duty of the Government to see that the present state of inflation is properly tackled, and that there should be deflation. Everyone agrees that there should be deflation, but how to bring that about is a very difficult question. As my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Shetkar has raised this question I would like to sound a note of warning.

There are people who think that in order to bring about deflation, foodgrains should be touched first of all. The prices of foodgrains they urge should be reduced, and if that is done all other prices will be reduced automatically and correspondingly. Whatever logic there may be in that I think it will be too risky a business. You may bring about deflation, if you do that but you may also bring about an end of our country if you thoughtlessly tackle the prices of foodgrains in that way, because we are still short of foodstuffs and it is the endeavour of the Government and also of everyone else to see that more foodstuffs are grown in the country. The one incentive to grow more foodstuffs is the incentive of good prices and it must be ensured that the cultivator gets proper prices for his products. If the prices of other things remain as they are and the prices of foodstuffs are reduced, the cultivator will find himself in a very difficult position. He will not have the incentive to grow more food, he will not even grow that much food that he normally does. He will only probably grow what he requires for his own needs and nothing more. That is a warning which I should like to give to the Government. But, as I have already said, it is a vicious circle and we have to begin somewhere. Where to begin and how to begin is a matter which will task the ingenuity of the present Government. There is no doubt about that.

Sir, I think that one way of tackling this problem was for the Government to take as much out of the floating money in the country as possible. But is the Government doing that? I think the late Government, instead of doing that, took rather a reverse step. I refer to the abolition of the excess profits tax. I do not think that that was the proper time to abolish that tax. Whether it will be possible to re-impose it or not, I do not know, because the people who were affected by that tax are so influential that I am afraid they will see that there is no re-imposition of a tax like that. But I am definitely of opinion that the abolition of that tax was a blunder. If the Government could accumulate as much money out of the floating money in the country in its own hands and then distribute it that would have been one way of tackling the present inflation. Look at our low paid Government servants. How can they make both ends meet

[Mr Tamizuddin Khan]

No doubt you have given them dearness allowance, but having regard to the fact that prices have gone up by 300 per cent, have you given them enough in the shape of dearness allowance? Certainly not. If the proceeds of the excess profits tax could have been set apart for increasing the pay of the low paid Government officers, that would have been perhaps one way of tackling the problem. However, this is a thing which is too difficult for a lay man to deal with and we shall look at the efforts of the present Government with anxiety so far as this difficult matter is concerned.

There is only one other thing that I should like to refer to. Many of the provisions of the Bill affect the activities of the Provincial Governments. Before this Bill was introduced I do not know whether it will be possible for the Government of India to consult the Provincial Governments. It would have been far better if Government could consult them previously. However, if even after the Bill is passed the Government of India can consult the Provincial Governments concerned before they take decisions that will be desirable from all points of view. So I support the motion.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I do not wish to discuss the principle underlying the controls or the history of the operation of these controls during war time. Such a study would be extremely fascinating from the legal point of view, but the problem which confronts us is one which is very difficult of solution. If on the one hand Government try to move with the times and reduce the number of controls to the minimum it is naturally accused of neglecting the interests of the public by decontrolling articles which should not be decontrolled. If on the other hand they continue to exercise control it extends the period of suspense under which the country has naturally to suffer after the period of the war. Therefore it is, I think, that Government have restricted themselves to the minimum number of commodities to be controlled and that also as the Honourable Member in charge has made it clear they want to have for a minimum period in the first instance, namely one year after the end of hostilities, which means—if I am correct—till the 30th April.

Now Sir, when we are considering the question of controls, it is obvious that we have to consider it from the point of view of the effect of such controls on the country. There can be no difference of opinion that owing to conditions created by the war, controls are an absolute necessity. There is also another question to be taken into consideration and that is the method of operation of these controls. To my mind one of the most important aspects of these controls is this,—what is the effect of these continued controls on the poor man and the man belonging to the lower classes? In so far as these two sections are concerned, I think the heaviest burden has fallen on their shoulders during the period of the war and during this period which has succeeded the war. Taxes have come without number, most of them falling on the poor and the lower middle classes. Then again owing to the abnormality of the war things have been scarce, food has been dearer, cloth also has been dearer and sometimes not available. The poor man and the lower middle class man as a result of conditions created during the war are today suffering an agony which is perhaps very easily conceivable. A man with a budget of less than Rs 100 is today not yet free from the sufferings created by the war, if at all, as the rising price indices show he is suffering more after the war than he did during the war. And when such a thing is there and when so many other complicated problems require solution, though perhaps they are not admissible of a very easy or immediate solution like the question of sterling balances and inflated currency, other financial factors, it is perhaps

cloth—I put foodstuffs first because that is a daily and hourly necessity and cloth comes next—Government should find out some way or other by which to effect an artificial reduction. I call it artificial because naturally they cannot afford to sell a thing for less than what they have paid for it, but if they can by some measure effect a substantial reduction—say about 25 per cent—in the price of foodstuffs in the case of the poor and lower middle classes such relief would come very handy and would be a very great relief indeed. With the change from an irresponsible Government to a national Government the one thing that people are looking forward to and the one thing by which the ordinary man in the street will judge this Government is the price of foodstuffs in the country. And in that matter I venture to suggest as an experiment for a limited period—six months or a year—the grant of a certain kind of subsidy to the consumer by working out a scheme which I am told was practised in the U P under which certain things were available at a reduced price for people drawing a certain income below a particular margin. If that experiment were tried and the price of rice, wheat and *gur* could be reduced by a certain percentage in the case of certain classes of the population and the deficit borne by Government as a general charge on the revenues, that surely would be a step which after all the turmoil and the agony suffered by the poorer classes of the population during the war would be very highly appreciated. The indices supplied to us as average indices, but in particular areas things are otherwise. For instance, in an important commercial place in my constituency in the Bombay province, gram which was selling at Rs 1-13 per maund in the pre-war days was in 1944 selling at the rate of Rs 12 a maund. Gram and pulses are some of the things which have almost disappeared from the market. If that is the condition the Government of India should be able to take steps to see that such of the commodities as are rare in a particular area are supplied in that area from another surplus area. Take coconuts for instance. Many of us may not feel or even know what a coconut costs in these days. But coconuts which used to cost anything between Rs 15 and Rs 20 per thousand today stand at the fabulous price of Rs 180 per thousand. The poor or lower middle class man in whose diet coconut occupies a small but important place would find it absolutely impossible to go to the bazar and buy a coconut at six or eight annas each.

Then, Sir, according to the latest trade bulletin issued by a department of the Government of India we find that *gur* has become scarce. In fact when *gur* used to cost less in manufacture than sugar it was more popular than sugar with the poor and lower middle classes. Anomalous as it may appear, today in the constituency I represent *gur* is priced if at all it is available at four times the price of sugar, and with regard to *gur* there was a anomalous see-saw. The Bombay Government put a control on *gur* to see that it can be purchased at some normal price, but immediately the control was established *gur* disappeared from the market altogether to quarters which are known but cannot be traced. And then we find people clamouring and urging upon Government to remove the control because they wanted plenty of *gur* though at a higher price. Now in regard to *gur* which is a daily necessity with the poorer classes conditions should not arise which make it difficult to obtain it at all or obtain it at a reasonable price. With regard to all these matters I think the House and Government should see that the poor man's lot is made better than it is. Then, with regard to cloth, I am not a statistician but this much I have come to know from a layman's point of view that if the cloth that is manufactured in the mills were to be made fully available to the consumer things would not be as bad as they are today. And very likely one of the leakages occurs not inland but in the coast line. A merchant in my constituency was complaining that much of the cloth that goes to the southern Bombay area goes out by the minor ports to some foreign parts. And very recently a merchant offered to sell back cloth worth about Rs 80,000 at Malwan a negligible port, for a loss. He had bought it with the idea of sending it to East Africa but failed and he wanted to make it available to any other merchant who would purchase it, even at 10 per cent loss. Now Sir, with regard to cloth, one method out of this vicious situation would be this

[Shri D P Karmarkar]

I may be extreme in my suggestion. But I suppose big national issues require big decisions also. If the craze for finer qualities of cloth is made less by education or else by non-production, I think the quantity of cloth required for the poorer and middle class population would be more and more available. Connected with the question of cloth is the question of transport. Cloth that has been allotted to South Bombay presidency still lies in Bombay, because of some reason or other, cloth refuses to move out of Bombay. According to the rules framed I speak subject to correction, after a certain period, the wholesale dealer in the Bombay City can make my sale whatever if the cloth that has been allotted to a particular area remains in Bombay city itself owing to reasons beyond his control. That leads to leakage.

The next commodity under control is paper. I really wonder whether there is any necessity for control of paper. Any control these days ought to be restricted to any commodity the absence of which would be a very great hardship to the consumer. Assuming, as we are told, that paper controls remain as they were before, any man in the end of India wishing to manufacture an exercise book would have to write to New Delhi or come up here. Any publisher who had the misfortune of being born in the publishing trade after 1942, the basic year, would have very little chance of getting any permission at all. Then again with regard to newspaper, there is a recurring complaint on behalf of new venturesome would be newspaper publishers that the present control with regard to newsprint is virtually a monopoly in the interest of people who are already there in the field. With regard to all these matters, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member in charge to see to it that he keeps control to a minimum, to see whether some rules could not be relaxed. For instance—keeping control with regard to publication of text books which certainly are a necessity for the whole population—whether the rules relating to a publisher before 1942 could not be relaxed. A copy of a representation has been sent to me, obviously it was originally addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies sent from a responsible Association of Publishers of Dharwar. I find there are various suggestions in it which are very useful. I will not repeat those suggestions to the Honourable Member, as he has invited us to take up these matters with him. I will not deal with them *extenso* on the floor of the House. Finally I think that even for the short period for which these controls are to be in existence it would be better from the point of view of minimising any possible defect in the working of these controls to set up in the first instance a type of central non-official advisory committee and to have its replica in the provinces and in each of the districts just as we have got food supply advisory committees right through the provinces and in the districts also. It would serve a good purpose if such committees are set up with the definite object of bringing to the Government's notice any possible defects in the working of these things. One of the defects certainly in the working of the present controls especially during the war time was—it was a huge joke in which we were indulging in—if a big man broke the law, he would be acquitted on some legal flaw or in the last resort under Rule 119 of the Defence of India Rules under which a certain notification had to be published. The result is that most of the major offenders could with impunity take wagon loads of corn from one district to another and would escape the clutches of the law, whereas the law is so vigilant as in the case which I know of, namely a lady taking two seers of *jowar* for Nagapanchami. She innocently brought two seers *jowar* to the market to prepare *jowar*-flour and she was hauled up for infringing the law. It would behove the Government to see that the law was not brought into such disrepute by indulging in such frivolous prosecutions. The law should descend very heavily on major offenders, but it should not drag small technical offenders like the lady I mentioned just now into court. That is all I have to say by way of suggestions. I have still a number of other suggestions which I shall take up with the Honourable Member and I have no doubt that in view of the assurance and in view of the approach he has made in regard to this

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

question, he will consider very sympathetically all suggestions put by us Sir, I support the Bill

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House) Sir, we are anxious to dispose of as much as possible of the legislative business included in the current list in the course of the present session. We have also certain supplementary demands in respect of General and Railway Budgets to be placed before the House. In the circumstances, I request you, Sir, to direct the House to sit for the transaction of official business on Monday, the 18th November. We do not in any event propose to ask for further sittings after that date.

Mr. President: I take it that there is no objection to that from any side. The House will sit on Monday, the 18th instant.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadian Rural) Is it enough Sir?

Mr. President: Perhaps that will depend upon the length of the speeches that Honourable Members will make. If they shorten the speeches it would be enough to sit on Monday only.

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES (TEMPORARY POWERS) BILL—contd

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division Non-Muhammadian) Sir, I listened with great attention to the speech of the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. I have no hesitation in saying that in so far as the question of controls of essential supplies are concerned there is no disagreement in the House. But all the same, I would have been happy if this Bill was referred to a Select Committee and the objectionable features of the Bill were removed. I sent in a number of amendments to this Bill, by post but unfortunately, it appears they have not been received in the office. I would request you, Sir, to kindly allow these amendments to come before the House. Sir, I, for one, am in agreement with most of the speakers who have preceded me in thinking that these controls are necessary in the interest of the poor people as well as in the interest of the big people. They are a necessary evil. What I feel is this, that in the working of these controls there has been much harassment of the general public. So much so that the public in general are tired of these. We expected that with the cessation of the war, or at least six months after the cessation, controls would be removed. It appears that the condition of the country even now is such that some emergency controls are still necessary. I do not want to cite before the House many illustrations how these controls have worked harshly on the people. I happen to be a legal practitioner and I have done many cases under the Defence of India Act. I have found that in many cases innocent people have been sent to jail, and many guilty people have got away from the meshes of this law by hook or crook. There is so much corruption rampant in the country. In all my life I have never seen the public servant so dishonest and corrupt as he is today. The operation of the Defence of India Act has not contributed a little to this state of affairs. So far as the clauses in the Bill are concerned I find that there is control not only over foodstuffs, but there is control over procedure of courts and of justice also. Those who practice law know how justice is throttled in various ways. I may cite certain examples. But before I do so, I wish to refer to section 15 of the Defence of India Act which was an appropriate safeguard in the Defence of India Act 1939. Section 15 lays down:

"Any authority or person acting in pursuance of this Act shall interfere with the ordinary avocations of life and the enjoyment of property as little as may be consonant with the purpose of ensuring the public safety and interest and the defence of British India."

Now, Sir, it so happens that under the guise of the provisions of these rules, many dishonest people have tried to further communal interests and taken away trade in cloth, foodstuffs etc., from those hands who were already in these trade and given it to other people. And this principle, of Section 15 which is a very salutary principle has not so far been observed by those in authority, and I apprehend that in so far as this section is not even present in the present Bill it

[Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava]

is likely that the provisions of this section will not be kept in observance while this act operates. I would, therefore like that the principles contained in this section 15, should be incorporated in the Act and should be before the eyes of every officer who has to administer this Act.

[Having said this, I will just call your attention to certain legal aspects of the Bill, I would refer you first of all to Section 1(3). I understand according to law if there is any Act before the House which has to expire automatically and which has got a limited period of existence, it is not usual to find in such an Act any provision like the one which is contained in this Section. The words are

"and section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, shall apply upon the expiry of this Act as if it had then been repealed by a Central Act".

You will be pleased to see that even in the old Defence of India Act such a provision did not exist. It means that liabilities incurred during the period when this Act is in force shall continue even after this Act has expired, and any person who has incurred any liability shall, even after this Act has expired, be chargeable with the consequences.

I understand that under Section 4 of Act 9 and 10 George Chapter 30 which gives the powers to the Legislature to enact, it does not lie within our power to enact a provision like the one which is contained in section 1(3). I do not think that the Legislature will be within its right to provide, for the future after this Act has expired that certain provisions of this Act shall continue to operate and even the liabilities which have been incurred shall continue as before.

A reference was made by the previous speaker to the case of innocent ladies who were taking *jowar* somewhere and to big persons who were even taking wagons with immunity. In this connection I would refer you to the definition of 'notified order'. Unless and until a person knows what the orders is how is that order to be complied with? According to the principles of Criminal Law, it is absolutely necessary that every person should know what the orders are and the accused in the dock should be proved to have knowledge of the order contravened. If an order is published in the official Gazette, how will the general public know about it? You know, Sir, that in India people are illiterate, and therefore if orders are published in the official Gazette it will not be sufficient at all. Unless an order is promulgated and brought to the notice of everybody I would submit that mere notification in the official gazette should not be enough to prove knowledge.

Similarly as regard penalties, I submit that the punishment provided is three years for all offences. Now the offence may be trivial or very big, but there is one provision for all of them. I understand that this Act will expire after a year or so, or may be it may be extended for one year more or at the most for five years, but at any rate we understand from the speech of the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies that the provisions of this Act will not last for more than a year. Therefore I submit that the punishment provided is too much and in any case the same punishment for all offences is against the principles of Criminal Law.

Under clause 9, you will be pleased to see that every director, manager, secretary or other officer or agent thereof shall unless he proves that the contravention took place without his knowledge, be deemed to be guilty of such contravention. This is against all known canons of criminal law. The burden of proof is never on the accused. I think that this provision is too wide. The offence may take place at a place other than where the officer is stationed, and yet he is to prove that the contravention took place without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent such contravention. This is topsy-turvy. Supposing I am Director of a company and some order is contravened by some one connected with this company am I to be held responsible for that? According to the meaning of this Section I will be held guilty. The principles of criminal law should not be contravened in this matter.

If you refer to clause 11, you will be pleased to find that

"No Court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except on a report in writing of the facts constituting such offence made by a person who is a public servant

A Police constable is a public servant and a *patwari* is a public servant as defined in section 21 of the Indian Penal Code. So all those subordinates who now make the operation of the present Act so harsh and tyrannical are the very persons who are competent to report. Now that the National Government is in office, I would suggest that no case should be allowed to go to a Court unless and until it is examined by a competent authority—a public prosecutor for instance. The accused should be given full liberty to defend himself. Each and every case should not be chalanced and only selected cases should go before the courts. Justice demands that there should be some safeguard here.

I for one shudder to think of clause 12 which provides

"Any magistrate or bench of magistrates empowered for the time being to try in a summary way the offences specified may, on application in this behalf being made by the prosecution, try in accordance with the provisions contained in

Under Section 260, it is the Court which decides whether any particular case should be tried summarily or not. Generally speaking cases in which punishment of more than six months imprisonment can be given are not tried summarily. Here a very strange procedure has been adopted, namely that it is for the prosecution to decide whether the case is to be tried summarily, or not. Who will be the accused under this law? They will be traders, factory owners, Secretaries, managers and responsible people. Why should they be tried summarily? They should be tried under the ordinary provisions of the law. I do not plead mercy for these people but I want justice to be done to them. We know how things are done in the mofussil. National Government is in power now, and we have full confidence in them. But all the same the *patwari* is the same, the sub-inspector is the same, and the C. S. O. is the same. Before the new spirit pervades among these people, this law which is being enacted shall have expired. The subordinate judiciary as well as the police being the same, we should take every possible precaution to see that the hard provisions of the Act are done away with. Similarly in Clause 15 the burden of proof has been laid upon the accused. I have submitted these points to indicate that while I am for seeing that these controls are kept up and this Bill is passed into an Act, such provisions as are hard upon the accused and contravene fundamental principles should be done away with. As a matter of fact the general circumstances which lead to these controls have been discussed in this House. I have submitted the case from the point of view of those who are to be controlled by this Bill and I would submit that now as there is no great emergency, and at the same time the circumstances of the country are not so bad as they were during the war—it is but fair that the harsh provisions of the Bill are done away with.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs, Muhammadan Urban)

I had no intention to speak on this Bill but the novel theory of corollaries the Honourable Member tried to establish led me to the view that I should place before the Government an aspect of the problem which might lead them to think twice before they rush pieces of legislation through this House of an Interim Government which may be purely for a limited period of time.

Sir, the first casualty of war was morality and here the Honourable Member in charge, led us to believe that controls created corruption and corruption entailed controls. Sir, I should like to have some sort of control over the tendency of the new Government to bring these Bills, sometimes of one section and sometimes of two lines, galore, by the dozen and by the hundred. We are asked to put into the field of our national economy that which after all may be upset by decisions taken by the Constitution-making body.

I cannot understand the professorial point of view the Honourable Member in charge placed before us. If controls mean corruption, then why extend them? We used to live in a world before the war in which there were no controls. Let economic forces work and let us forget controls. If we have controls, then we shall have labour members talking of the rights of peasants and workers. The

[Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

merchants will begin to think of their rights. The Honourable Member who preceded me discussed the legal aspects of this Bill, an ill-advised and ill-considered Bill, before us. The fundamental rights of citizens in various grades and strata of society are being interfered with in a most callous manner. I am asked to prove things which the other fellow should. I had expected that the new Government had come with the idea of freeing us not only of these controls but of the bigger control against which we are trying to fight. Here I see imitation. I hear arguments which I used to hear from Members of the Government, with a different hue. I would respectfully urge upon the Members of the present Executive Council of the Governor-General to forget that they are a Government. They have to rise and remove the controls or terrors as I call them—or horrors, if you like, which existed before. Take us out of this terrible position, or wait until we are in a position to stand on our own feet and talk in our own way. Here we talk of an Indian Government but the law and the traditions left by its predecessor do not seem to have changed. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Member in charge to forget these controls. Let some Indians die of starvation, if necessary, and let some merchants go into bankruptcy, but give back the freedom to the Indian citizen in every strata of our society because, Sir, you will agree with me that whenever a law restricting our liberties is passed, either as an Order in Council or under a different name, ultimately it has found its place in the Statute Book. Similarly here these controls which created corruption as well as multi-millionaires have to be removed and not perpetuated or prolonged for one, two or five years. I cannot understand why economic forces are not allowed to take their normal course. Millionaires and multi-millionaires will see to their own interests. If this is a National Government and if we all talk of the nation, not controls but the moral influence of the Government and the moral influence of our leaders which will make merchants, whether they are non and steel merchants or textile merchants of wool and cotton and not the jute merchants of Calcutta, forget their selfish interests. Let the public opinion of the country be allowed to tell the Government what to do.

...g them at the expense of the poorer sections among our people. The country needs millions for its own use. It is as I said earlier, in this session the liaison between the merchant and the Government official that has to be broken. The paraphernalia which the Honourable Member will create to see his new Bill succeed, whether it is for one year or five years, it does not matter at all, and the whole army of officials he will create for the purpose will undo his good intentions if there are any in this Bill.

I would again, most earnestly request the Honourable Member and his colleagues to visualise, if possible, a period of misery for our countrymen if the controls are reimposed. Other countries are doing it. Where the influences are great people will call them capitalistic others will call them labour and communistic and so on and so forth. They will go on. That is the normal of human society today. But here, and I again used the word, let us forget imitation. Let us think out our problems in our own way. What London does need not suit us. What Washington does need not be copied. Let us create, if possible, a moral sense in those who are making money, in those who are trying to rob the poorer men.

I heard the Honourable Member telling us that Government should do this, Government should do that and Government should punish the poor man or alternatively the merchant. Can we, Sir, get out of that old mentality of asking the Government to do everything for us? Why should the nation not punish these money-making machines called merchants? Why should the present Government not give back to India the normal life it needs—the life of freedom. Sir, the Honourable Member for Labour from Bombay would perhaps want everything

to be done by the Government, by way of "nationalization." I do not wish to enter into the controversy of private enterprise *versus* nationalization but I do want that the merchant as well as the worker should be allowed to have a free existence and the busy bodies who will work on behalf of the Honourable Member under this Bill had better be eliminated for all time to

come. If decontrolling means the merchant trying to raise his prices, let us have *harkats* against them, let us have even riots as we have now but let the Indian citizen be free. In this session I have been worried a good deal. Are we going to be demoralized altogether by the huge majority that we have—the whole House as against nine or perhaps a few more members? Will the Honourable Member and his colleagues consider the question of manufacturing and Opposition to keep them on the right path? If this is delayed I am afraid this House will become something like the totalitarian parliaments we have heard so much of. I know the time left for us is about a week. We may add a day or two more to it but even in this limited period if an Opposition could be created or manufactured, I would welcome it. They could safeguard their position in the Viceroy's Executive Council by compelling the Opposition, of which I should like to be a member, to see that in any no-confidence motion we shall stand behind them. Otherwise without criticism there would be a sort of permanent surrender of our rights. I now belong to the same group as the Government and therefore I must keep quiet and silent, and allow them to run away with my rights and my interests as a citizen. Under these conditions and in these circumstances, I hope that if the Honourable Member is not prepared to withdraw his Bill, he will, I plead, give us back some of the rights which he is so callously trying to take away from us. I do hope that he will punish the cringing merchant, he will punish those who robbed us during the war years but I also hope that he will see that the fundamental principles of the criminal law of the country are not interfered with.

Several Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan) Sir, it is a very important debate we ought to speak.

Mr. President: I have no alternative but to put the question.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad. It is in the discretion of the President to accept or not to accept the closure.

Mr. President: I think that the matter has been sufficiently debated. That is my own feeling in the matter. There has been a long debate covering many points and I found that practically there were repetitions of the same points, though the illustrations may be different.

The question is

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai: Sir, I would not take up the time of the House at this late hour. The discussion has ranged over a very wide field and what I propose to do is to take up a few of the more important criticisms which have been made on the Bill and make what reply I can to them. Before I do so, I should like to express my appreciation of the constructive and patriotic line that the House as a whole has taken with regard to this measure.

One of the things which apparently has worried practically every speaker who has spoken on this Bill is that now that the war emergency is over, why has a Bill with such drastic provisions put into law?

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

My reply to it is this. The emergency of war is over now but the economic emergency created by the war still continues in exactly the same form, probably slightly worse, and unless something is done by Government to prevent the serious abuses which are possible under the conditions which prevail today, I do not think the Government would be discharging its responsibilities.

A great deal has been said about the severity of the provisions contained in this Bill. I am aware that in certain respects these provisions are severe. A great deal has been said also about corruption among public servants who have been handling the instruments of control. I just say this. I do not think that enough has been done in the contract of a large number of public servants.

[Dr John Matthau]

with the production and distribution of goods. The emergency conditions created by the war have been used in directions which do not reflect credit upon large numbers of people in the country and I think if the National Government is at all true to its purpose it must not allow this kind of conditions to continue any longer.

Mr Manu Subedar raised a very relevant point. This control measure is necessary because of the continuance of inflation but what exactly is Government doing in order to prevent the inflationary position getting worse and possibly to get the price level back to a more normal trend? Well, that question is very much under the consideration of the Government. It is a matter which is receiving anxious attention at our hands. As Mr Manu Subedar realises, it is not a simple problem. It is a problem which has got to be attacked simultaneously upon a very large number of fronts. You have got to tackle it on the monetary front, you have got to tackle it on the front of goods and services and in between you have to tackle it on a basis of direct controls.

It has been suggested that if in America they have lifted all controls why should we not lift our controls also? There is a very vital difference between America and India in this respect and that indeed is the whole case for maintaining this control in India. If we were to be left entirely to the operation of economic forces, supposing the whole question of adjustment of supply and demand is to be brought out by the operation of the price factor, what would happen under present conditions in India is this. We cannot increase the supply of goods to anything like the extent we want. We have not got the productive equipment in this country, even now we have not got the machinery-making industry in this country and we are not in a position to increase our supply by imports because manufacturing countries have not got enough surpluses. Therefore, supposing you allow normal forces to operate, what would happen is that prices would go up, they would go up further and further. It would make no difference to the supply position, and therefore prices will continue to remain at that higher level. In America, with a productive capacity so large, which has been greatly enhanced during the war years, what might happen is this: that if controls are removed and prices go up, it is possible that the productive equipment of the country will meet the situation by increasing the supply of goods. We are not in that position today, and that, I submit, is the whole case for this Bill.

A good deal has been said about planned economy. I do not want to discuss that subject in connection with this particular measure, for a very obvious reason. I said in my opening remarks that the whole purpose of government in introducing this Bill is to meet an emergency situation which is likely to last for a limited period, and I would therefore confine my reply strictly to that aspect of the problem. I personally think that, within a period of eighteen months it may be, or two years, the forces which are relevant in this connection may operate in the direction of bringing down our prices to a level considerably lower than the present. Supposing within that period, we find that the inflationary position has lost its tension, its acuteness, then it will be time for government so far as this particular Bill is concerned, to consider a relaxation of its provisions.

As regards planned economy, the controls necessary for instituting a planned economy are of an entirely different character. Their purpose would be different, their method of operation would be different, and the whole objective would be different. So I do not want in this connection to raise the question of the control machinery that would be required for instituting and promoting a planned economic development, but I have not the slightest doubt that if this country is going to make any real progress in the matter of economic development, it would be necessary to adopt a fairly extensive system of controls, whether you organize your economic development on an all India basis or on a regional basis or on a provincial basis. It is no use getting away from that fact.

The first speaker referred to the importance of bringing the orders issued in connection with this measure to the notice of the authorities who work on these measures actually on the spot. It is a suggestion, which I would accept. I really think there is a great deal to be said for measures of this kind to be interpreted in an intelligent and sympathetic manner by those who are in charge of them, but may I say this, that in regard to most of these controls the ultimate operating authority is the provincial governments, and all that we at the centre could do would be to advise the authorities, the provincial governments, as regards the best way in which these controls can be administered. But I certainly would keep the suggestion made by the Honourable Member in mind and do whatever I can to bring this matter to the notice of the provincial governments concerned.

I think reference was made to the fact that in the important matter of house building, a question to which I think honourable members are entitled to attach very great importance, not enough progress has been made. I should like in that connection to say this: it is not merely in regard to house-building, but in regard to all plans of development which the government of this country have been considering, we have been held up not so much by financial considerations as by the fact that the necessary material resources have not been available. It is an unfortunate situation but it can be tackled only on the basis of increased production in the country and by a more suitable kind of distribution. One of the purposes of this Bill is to see that the distribution of these materials is arranged on lines which are in the best interests of the country.

Sir, I do not want to take up any more time.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That the Bill to provide for the continuance during a limited period of powers to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain commodities, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: I have just received notice of some amendments by Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava. I do not know whether the Honourable Member has received them or not.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have just received them. I regret I am not in a position to accept them.

Mr. Deputy President: I am afraid it is rather too late in that case.

The question is

"That clauses 2 to 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 16 were added to the Bill.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, we can speak on the motion and oppose it. We want to speak on certain clauses, even if there is no amendment.

Mr. Deputy President: Certainly the Honourable Member was entitled to speak when I put the question that these clauses do form part of the Bill and asked those in favour to say 'Aye', the Honourable Member could have got up. Now, the question has been put and a decision given on it. Clause 17.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, I move

"That to clause 17 of the Bill the following sub-clause be added, namely

(3) For the removal of doubts it is hereby declared—

(a) that for the purposes of the said Ordinance and this Act an order of the nature referred to in section 5 of the said Ordinance made before the commencement of the said Ordinance and not previously rescinded shall be deemed to be, and always to have been, an order in force immediately before such commencement, notwithstanding that such order, or parts of it, may not then have been in operation, either at all or in particular areas,

(b) that for the purposes of this Act an order made or deemed to be made under the said Ordinance and not rescinded prior to the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be an order in force immediately before the commencement of this Act, notwithstanding that such order, or parts of it, may not then be in operation, either at all or in particular areas."

[Sir George Speuce]

Sir, section 5 of the Ordinance which clause 17 of the Bill proposes to repeal provided that an order made under the Defence of India Rules in respect of any matter specified in section 3 of the Ordinance, which was in force immediately before the commencement of the Ordinance shall continue in force and shall be deemed to be made under the Ordinance, and sub-clause (2) of clause 17 of the Bill further continues in force orders which were made or were deemed to be made under the Ordinance. This amendment has been tabled as a result of a query by the Punjab Government as to whether these provisions would have the effect of continuing in force certain orders of the nature referred to in section 5 of the Ordinance, which were made under the relevant Defence of India Rules, before the commencement of the Ordinance, but which contained a provision whereby they were not to come into operation in any district or other local area until brought into operation by notification, and which were not in fact brought into operation in any area until after the commencement of the Ordinance. The object of the amendment is to leave no room for doubt that orders made before the relevant date but not brought into operation till after that date have and always have had the status of orders in force immediately before the relevant date for the purposes of section 5 of the ordinance and sub-clause (2) of clause 17 of the Bill. I may mention that the provision sought to be made in this amendment closely follows the provision made in clause (1) of sub-section (1) of section 1 of the India and Burma Existing Laws Act, 1937, which enacted a like declaratory provision in relation to the reference in section 292 of the Constitution Act to the law in force in British India immediately before the commencement of Part III. Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That to clause 17 of the Bill the following sub clause be added, namely

'(3) For the removal of doubts it is hereby declared—

(a) that for the purposes of the said Ordinance and this Act an order of the nature referred to in section 5 of the said Ordinance made before the commencement of the said Ordinance and not previously rescinded shall be deemed to be, and always to have been an order in force immediately before such commencement, notwithstanding that such order, or parts of it, may not then have been in operation, either at all or in particular areas,

(b) that for the purposes of this Act an order made or deemed to be made under the said Ordinance and not rescinded prior to the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be an order in force immediately before the commencement of this Act, notwithstanding that such order, or parts of it, may not then be in operation, either at all or in particular areas "

The motion was adopted

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 1 was added to the Bill

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I move

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed "

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed "

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, during the war, we lived in peace. In peace time we are at war. During the war we at least had the liberty of speeches in the Legislature. When the war is over, we are denied the liberty to speak. Our mouths are shut up by the motion that the question be now put by the Government. They think that we have no alternative but to accept this motion but at least they ought to have given us some opportunity to express our opinion on such big issues before us. I am rather surprised that this motion has come from one of the most eminent economists of India, Dr John Matthai. He knows all the principles of trade. He said very clearly the other day that they would take steps to reduce the price level or increase the purchasing power

of the rupee but may I ask this question—whether by this Act he is really raising the price level or he is lowering the price level? Will the purchasing power of the rupee be increased or diminished? We know as much as anybody else that the very important thing by means of which the prices can be reduced is competition. Competition is one of the biggest factors in trade for the reduction of the prices and the biggest enemies of trade are monopoly, combines and hoarding. Here in this particular Bill, there is the monopoly of one individual, namely, the Government. There is no question of combine because there is only one power in the field. Trade like industries requires expert knowledge. Not every man in the world is an expert in trade. It is rather unfortunate that the Government of India thinks that the I.C.S. people who are running the government are also great experts in trade. The civilians think that they are all-knowing persons. Now, you are leaving the whole question of trade in their hands, a thing to which they are not accustomed. May I just remind the Honourable Member that the I.C.S. had once a great reputation in the world. Ever since Lord Macaulay made his famous speech in the House of Parliament right up to recent times the I.C.S. had a brilliant record. May I ask, is the Civil Service the same as it was some years ago, before the war? We have now made them tradesmen, commercial men and given them powers of monopoly. During the war with one third salary you put them in position of great temptation and protected them by rules under the Defence of India Act. Even after the war, I am surprised that the old state of affairs is sought to be perpetuated by this Act which is now before us. I would like to have made certain amendments. If you really want the thing to work smoothly and if you want the people to live comfortably and make them feel that they are living in a time of peace, then you must go back to the trade channels and they are the only people who will be able to restore the distribution of the available materials among the people. You cannot expect any administrative civilian or official to understand the niceties of a tradesman which the tradesmen alone can understand. Now, the tradesman is very careful because if he makes a mistake, it will fall on his purse but if the official makes a mistake, it will fall not on his purse but on the taxpayers or the consumers, he can not exercise the same care as an ordinary tradesman would do. You are now putting one person in charge of the whole affair. Formerly his actions were protected by the Defence of India Rules and now they will be protected by an Act of the Legislature. During the war we had the satisfaction that this thing was done by Ordinances on account of war conditions but it is our misfortune that we are now made a party to it, we have to put our seal to this economic crime in the name of the representatives of the people. I am sure the Members of the Government who have been in opposition for a long time know the condition of the people of this country. They are well aware that there is corruption all round. They are well aware that the corruptions are of such an order that they never existed in the administration of this country ever since the British came here. I have no doubt they have also considered their causes. The first they ought to have done when they came into power was to eradicate all these causes of corruption and restore normal conditions so that there may be peace in the country. You may rest assured that however efficient and honest a Government servant may be, if you reduce the purchasing power of his salary to one quarter and give him this power and protect his actions by an Act of this kind, his efficiency will soon change into inefficiency. It is a great mistake to vest our administrators with such functions and such duties which tradesmen alone can perform. If mistakes are made by a tradesman, there is some authority to control him and there is also the law of the land. But what is the law of the land in the case of Government officials? You say no action can be taken against any District Magistrate who is discharging his duties as a controlling officer or any other officer. And these enormous powers you are giving at a time when the war is over and when we were expecting all the advantages of peace after having been through all sorts of privations for nearly six years during the war. Is this the fruit of our war efforts? I think it is not fair for the Honourable Member to state that...

[Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad]

the mouths of the Members of the Assembly by moving a motion for closure. We know that the closure which is moved by the Government will be accepted because there is no opposition. They have got our confidence and they are not afraid of any opposition. When the previous Government was in office and if two or three persons had stood up to speak, I am sure they would not have dared to move for a closure. But now there is no fear. But you should allow us at least the freedom of speech. It is not fair that you should take away our conscience as well as the right to speak. I should say that I pity those officials who will be using these enormous powers which the Honourable Member is putting in their hands, because you are placing them under temptations which very few human beings can afford to resist. Once an administrative officer is tempted to do these shaky things, then you may rest assured that his efficiency will disappear. He will be a very strong administrative officer who will not be tempted because he can do whatever he likes without any fear of being criticised by any outside person. Look into the clauses and you will see what powers of protection are being given to them. Under clause 12 the District Magistrate can try summarily, there is no appeal. Under clause 15 the burden of proof will lie on the accused. This is rather an innovation in the law and I am sorry that the Law Member has accepted it. Then, clause 16 also requires very careful consideration. I do not mind if all these powers were given by an Ordinance, but you are asking us to be a party to this legislation and you do not want to give us a chance to express our objections. This is very unfair and we did not expect this treatment from a National Government. When there is opposition, the Government is much more careful and at least consult the persons who are interested before the introduction of the bill. Let us now visualise how it will work.

In the case of cloth, it is quite possible that a number of people will come forward and there will be a competition for securing licences. He has got to get a licence and before he gets it he has to spend an enormous amount of money. How is he to recover that amount? He will not sell the cloth at the market price. He will probably avoid the sale to persons who are entitled to buy and he will probably sell it at the black market rates. This has been a source of trouble and fight all over the country. Our troubles in Aligarh began on this very reason. The man was in charge of cloth refused to sell it. He did not sell it because he knew all the time that the District authorities will support him. Now, the person who wanted to purchase happened to be a son of a police officer and he relied on the influence of his father. So, with these two persons on either side the fight began which developed enormously in March 1946. Therefore, you are now creating a bone of contention everywhere with the great advantage to the seller because he has got the whole weight of Government behind him.

Then, there is another thing also. In the case of textiles and also in the case of steel and iron you have created a certain number of stockists, but there is no guarantee that these stockists will sell these commodities to the consumers. Several cases, in fact, came to me and I brought them to the notice of Mr Waugh, who was then in charge of this Department. These salesmen refused to sell their articles to the ordinary public in spite of their permits. In the case of iron and steel all the five persons who were appointed are non-Muslims. I approached Tatas, I approached the Government and represented that at least one of these five posts should go to a Muslim. They wanted cash security which was also offered, but in spite of all that, our request to appoint a Muslim was turned down. That is the atmosphere in the country. When all these feelings are rampant in the country, is there any chance for us to get iron and steel at the present moment under the rules which the Government of India have framed? I wanted to purchase iron and steel for charitable institutions, but in spite of the recommendation of the Education Department, I could not possibly get iron and steel because the conditions which were created by ordinance and which you try to perpetuate under this Bill will only help the black marketeers. Are we not, as citizens of this

country entitled to a share in the industry of this country? Under the law which you have framed, we have no share. That is the reason why I cannot possibly support this particular Bill that is now before the House. As I was saying these five persons whom you have appointed as salesmen will have the sole monopoly to sell iron and steel. They all belong to one particular class. It is really left to their whim whether they sell to anybody or not. Whenever any customer goes there even with a permit, the reply comes that the article is not in stock. Therefore what is the chance for us, who are not in that class? It will be extremely difficult for any Honourable Member to take the monopoly out of the hands of certain privileged class. I know this from personal knowledge. I am myself the sufferer in the case of one article. I have been waiting for the last 24 months for the construction of a hostel, but we could not possibly get iron and steel. We wanted some girders but on account of the monopoly in the hands of five individuals we were denied access to girders. They could not be released. I am sure even if my Honourable friend should issue special orders even then these materials will not reach our hands, because after all these monopolists have got such a great hold on the Government that instead of Government being masters over them, they are the masters of Government. They are really ruling the Government instead of being ruled by the Government. I have not come across a single official who has not been in the pockets of textile magnates. Not only the case of textiles but the case of iron and steel is equally bad. Some officials were showed special favour and after retirement they got high salaries from those Companies. Is it not a form of corruption? My Honourable friend knows the figures. He knows what is the price of iron and steel. What is the value of Tata shares? What is the dividend which the Tatas are declaring? They are declaring such fat dividends at the expense of the hard worked labourers. These are the people who control the Government. This is the difficulty which we are experiencing. It is difficult for common people to get this stuff. It is difficult to get permit, it is still more difficult to get the permit honoured. Most of the stuff will remain hidden and will be sold in black market.

Next I come to the question of control of textiles and the question of control of cotton. I gave notice of a Bill for abolition of all exchanges, cotton exchange, bullion exchange, general exchange—these are really gambling houses. Instead of abolishing these gambling dens, the Honourable Member is trying to perpetuate them. He makes the price of cotton soar high. The textile people under the excuse of high price of cotton raise the prices of textile to still higher figures. I think that after centuries of experience, the trade has learnt what particular class of people consume which variety of goods. The trade supplies these articles accordingly. Here the Government officials go on changing. One day, 'A' is in charge of Supplies, probably six months afterwards, 'B' takes charge. The control administration really lies in the hands of the traders who are able to influence the Superintendents and clerks in the office. It is these clerks and Superintendents who wield enormous powers, they enjoy enormous privileges and powers of patronage. From this point of view, this Bill requires careful consideration. I wish my Honourable friend tells us the effect of this bill on price level, whether it will rise or fall by the passing of this enactment. If he says, the price will be lowered, he must give us some cogent arguments in what way he contemplates the price to be lowered. I say the price will not be lowered because there is monopoly and no competition the whole time. There is corruption all round.

The next topic which is causing great trouble to the country is yarn. There is competition between handlooms and textiles about which my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is perhaps a great expert. He has studied the problem. I can tell him this yarn problem is as acute in U.P. as it is in Madras. There is a great shortage of yarn. The necks of these handloom weavers is in the hands of the textile manufacturers. These textile manufacturers can make or mar the life of the handloom weavers. Textile manufacturers are the only persons who produce yarn. There is a great shortage of yarn. There is competition between handlooms and textiles about which my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is perhaps a great expert. He has studied the problem. I can tell him this yarn problem is as acute in U.P. as it is in Madras. There is a great shortage of yarn. The necks of these handloom weavers is in the hands of the textile manufacturers. These textile manufacturers can make or mar the life of the handloom weavers. Textile manufacturers are the only persons who produce yarn.

[Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad]

sweet will to supply or not to supply yarn to the weavers, in right quality or in proper quantity. I suggest that in order to help the handloom weavers, the Government should establish government owned and managed spinning factories all over India. We are always insistent on this reform. I expected that the first measure that this Government would bring forward would be to nationalise the textile industry, at least in yarn. Nearly one crore of poor weavers are now at the mercy of the textile manufacturers who number only few lakhs. Five lakhs are supported by the textile industry while the handloom industry supports one crore of people. It should be duty of a National Government to look after the people.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member should confine himself to the Bill and not discuss the policy which is outside the scope of the Bill.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is an important thing to nationalise the industry. I thought the Honourable Member would move a Bill to nationalise the textile industry, instead of which he has adopted the reverse process. He should start factories at Government expense all over India, owned and managed by Government and distribute yarn in fair quantities, so that our cottage industry may prosper. If they prosper the price of textiles will surely come down because there will be some kind of competition. At present there is no competition in textiles and so they can fix whatever prices they like. My friend may say he will fix prices for a particular type of cloth, but there are so many different varieties of cloth that it is impossible for one who is not in the trade itself to control the prices. If you fix prices for 80 articles the manufacturers will bring out 70 kinds of cloth which are outside the control, and further they will produce more of these 70 varieties and very little of the 80 controlled varieties. So your control does not affect the manufacturers but really helps them. My friend must know who the people are who advocate prohibition, it is the sellers of wine who get better prices during prohibition. The same is the case here and it is the manufacturers who will benefit out of this control. If you take the figures of textiles.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member must know that he can only deal with control of production, supply and distribution of certain articles.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am dealing with the production of textiles without which there can be no control.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-official) At what stage of the Bill are we now?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: We are now at the third reading.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I thought you were giving it a fourth reading.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Gladstone was asked by Queen Victoria why he travelled third class, and his reply was because there was no fourth class. My reply will be the same.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, my Honourable friend has only dealt with two controls out of 27 mentioned in the Bill. May I know if he wants to speak on all the other 25?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I will speak about those of which I have got personal knowledge.

Then about textiles, my Honourable friend knows the value of the shares, how much reserve the companies have got and that dividends are given. Knowing this he must know that they can dictate terms as they like. The only way to bring down competition will be to have competition among the millowners. If there is a combine among the millowners and Government the country must come forward and break it. But we find that one crore is the share capital, 18 crores are in the reserve fund and 25, 30 and even 40 per cent are given in dividends. So you cannot expect prices to come down and these contemplated controls will only raise the prices higher.

In his first speech I was glad to hear this session by my Honourable friend Dr John Matthai that he will try to lower the price index. When I referred to the question in the case of the food debates they referred me to the report of the Price Control Board. I read that report very carefully but found that it contains only some economic platitudes but not one single practical suggestion. So I thought the Honourable Member would offer some practical suggestions about lowering the price-level. My friend knows that the millowners have made enormous profits during the war and now after the end of the war they have devised various methods by which they may continue to have those profits. But it is now the turn of the poor people to derive some advantage after the sufferings during the war. But after the Bill I am sure the price level will go up further. My friend says 'No', he perhaps thinks prices will go down. I should like to know from him in his reply how he thinks the prices will go down by his Bill. He has given a monopoly of distribution to individuals, he has opened the door to corruption and hoarding and intermediate knots have been created. Even after all that he thinks the prices will go down. I hope he will explain it fully.

Sir, I will now come

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I will point out to my Honourable Member that there are a number of measures dealing with the economic life of the country and the House will always welcome a speech from him. He has entered his protest in a strong manner and he may be good enough to speak on other measures too. Unless my friend has really something which concerns this Bill particularly, we will be very grateful if he finished his speech now. If it was something that could be postponed for some other measure which may come before this House . .

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: You mean the Finance Bill?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, certainly. I promise that my Honourable friend can have ten minutes more on the Finance Bill.

Mr. Deputy President: Has the Honourable Member finished his speech?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: He has

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I have not finished my speech

Mr. Deputy President: It is now 5 O'clock. The House stands adjourned.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 19th November 1946

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volumes VII and VIII, 1946

(28th October to 18th November, 1946)

SECOND SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1946



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CORRIGENDA

**In the Legislative Assembly Debates, Autumn Session, 1946—
In Volume VII—**

- 1 No. 1, dated the 28th October, 1946—
 - (i) Page 71, In the footnote, for "Excluding" read "Including".
 - (ii) Page 118, line 15, for "joint" read "join"
- 2 No. 2, dated the 29th October, 1946—
 - (i) Page 174, line 3, for "the" read "they"
 - (ii) Page 186, line 3, from bottom for "an soul" read "our souls"
 - (iii) Page 187, line 4, for "preceed" read "proceed "
 - (iv) Page 198, line 24, for "13 43 crores" read "13.43 crores"
- 3 No. 3, dated the 30th October, 1946—
 - (i) Page 271, line 8, for "chose" read "choose"
- 4 No. 7, dated the 6th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 577, last line, for "appreciable" read "appreciate"
 - (ii) Page 601, line 15, for "infstaton" read "infestation"
- 5 No. 8, dated the 7th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 655, line 23, for "shatras" read "shastras"
- 6 No. 10, dated the 11th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 764, second line, heading to starred question No 370, for "OASB" read "OASTB"
 - (ii) Page 818, insert the top heading "STATEMENT OF BUSINESS" between lines 2 and 3

In Volume VIII—

- 7 No. 1, dated the 12th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 884, line 14 from bottom for "liability" read "hability"
 - (ii) Page 886, line 29, for "evatars" read "avatars"
- 8 No. 2, dated the 13th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 926, the first line of part (c) to Starred Question No 486 should read "(c) Are Government aware of the fact that earlier in 1939-40, Government"
 - (ii) Page 996, line 15 from bottom for "took" read "look"
- 9 No. 3, dated the 14th November, 1946—
 - (i) Page 1015, in the table under "Pre-war" for "General Wagons Service" read "General Service Wagons".
 - (ii) Page 1027, line 28, for "supar" read "sugar"
 - (iii) Page 1037, line 6, for "person" read "persons"
 - (iv) Page 1048, in heading to Starred Question No 568, for "es" read "rs"
 - (v) Page 1012, line 10 from bottom delete the asterisk

(vi) Page 1077, for the last 6 lines *substitute* the following lines—

“Regarding the powers of the industrial tribunals, the Government has put in in clause 15, that they will accept the decision of the tribunal wholly or in part. If you appoint high eminent judges to decide the disputes, I cannot understand why the Government desires that they may ask the industry to implement the decision wholly or in part. I feel that it is possible that the Government may also find itself in difficulties. Government owns so many industries. They”

10. No 4, dated the 15th November, 1946—

(i) Page 1100, line 15, for *prefer* read “prefer”

(ii) Page 1116, for the existing heading to Starred Question No 616, read “HOUSING OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS”

11 No 5, dated the 16th November, 1946—

Page 1211, in the *last but one* line of the quotation in small type for “all” read “small”

12 No 6, dated the 18th November, 1946—

(i) Page 1237, under the heading “INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL”, *delete* the fifth line

(ii) Page 1265, line 27, for “countly” read “country”

**THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

TUESDAY, 12th NOVEMBER, 1946

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 12th November 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

Mr Henry Douglas Cayley, O B E, M L A (Government of India, Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad: I have the authority to put Shri Sri Prakasa's questions. That will come in the end †

Mr. President: I understand the authority is wanting (After a pause) The authority was for the last week

SITINGS OF THE FEDERAL COURT DURING THE YEAR

1407. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state

(a) the number of days the Federal Court sat during the financial year 1945-46,

(b) the number of cases that were filed in the Court,

(c) the number disposed of and the number still pending, and

(d) if the Federal Court is fully authorised to regulate the number of days it will sit and the number of hours it will work?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Thirty days

(b) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the same period, that is, the financial year 1945-46. Seventeen cases were filed during the said period.

(c) Seven (being the total number of cases ready for disposal up to 31st March 1946) were disposed of. Ten (not being ready for hearing) have remained pending. In addition to the above-mentioned seven cases, the Court disposed of a number of applications and petitions of various sorts.

(d) The Federal Court is authorised by section 214 of the Government of India Act, 1935, to make rules of Court, with the approval of the Governor-General in his discretion, regulating the practice and procedure of the Court. In pursuance of this provision, the Court has framed rules, known as the Federal Court Rules, and these rules provide, among other matters, for the sittings of the Court.

PRIVILEGES OF THE JUDGES OF THE FEDERAL COURT

1408. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if the Judges of the Federal Court can take part in politics and express their opinions on political subjects freely, inside and outside India? If so, are all the Judges of High and Subordinate Courts equally privileged?

† Could not be reached during the question hour

‡ Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The judges of the Federal Court and the same may also be said of the judges of High Courts—are appointed by His Majesty in pursuance of statutory provisions. They are not prohibited by any statutory or other provision from taking part in politics and expressing opinions on political subjects. They however recognize the well established judicial convention that judges should not take part in controversial party politics and therefore they do not generally express opinions on such political subjects, save when such subjects form matters of dispute coming before them for adjudication. The position of judges of subordinate courts is different. They are appointed by the local Government and as such are governed by the relevant Government Servants' Conduct Rules, which contain a prohibition against Government servants taking part in politics.

EXPORT OF BENARES SILK TO CEYLON AND HEJAZ

†409. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) the exact position with regard to the export of Benares silk goods to Ceylon and Hejaz,

(b) if licences are freely granted to persons in Benares for the export of such cloth to the two countries, and

(c) the conditions under which the licences are granted?

The Honourable Mr I I Chundigar: (a) and (b) Export of Benares silk sarees of hand-reeled silk yarn is permitted freely without any quantitative restrictions to all permissible destinations including Ceylon and Hejaz. Other Benares silks are not allowed to be exported.

(c) Does not arise.

DETENTION OF AFGHAN SARDARS IN POONA

†410. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the condition in which the four Afghan Sardars, namely, Sardar Inayatullah Khan, Sardar Hafizullah Khan, Sardar Habibullah Khan and ex-Afghan Army Brigadier Sayyed Yaqub Khan are now staying at Poona for the last more than six years, being detained there without trial under Rule 36 of the Frontier Crimes Regulation?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether he intends to review the case of the Afghan Sardars referred to in (a) above?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) These persons are not detained at Poona and are free to move about anywhere in British India with the exception of the N.W.F.P. and Baluchistan.

(b) Their case is under review in consultation with the Afghan Government. As soon as a reply is received to the reference to the Afghan Government the whole case will be fully considered.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIA ON THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

411. ***Mr. P. B. Gole:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to press on the International Labour Office the necessity of giving better representation to India including some important posts on its staff, and

(b) whether Government propose to press on the International Labour Office the necessity of opening a branch in India for Asiatic countries?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a) Government are continuously pressing on the International Labour Office the necessity for giving adequate representation to Indian nationals on the International Labour Office staff.

(b) There are branch offices of the International Labour Office in India, and China. Government of India have pressed on the International Labour Office the necessity for opening a Regional Office for Asia and locating it in India.

Mr P. B. Gole: Who are the Indians on the establishment of the Labour Office at present?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: There is one Principal Chief of Section. Then there is one Counsellor. There are three members of sections. In all there are five on the staff of the International Labour Office.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Where are the Headquarters of the Branch Office in India?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: In all there are six officials. All of them are Indian Nationals.

Mr. P. B. Gole: With regard to (b) is there any Branch Office of the International Labour Office in India? Where is it located?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: It is located in New Delhi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is the Government of India aware that the International Labour Office has appointed a committee of enquiry on the recruitment of staff and the conditions to be given to the staff? May I ask whether the Government of India have sent any memorandum or made any representation to that Committee as to how the International Labour Office should recruit an adequate number of Indians on that staff?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: The Government of India have been pressing for the appointment of Indian nationals on the staff of the International Labour Office, and at the recent conference that was held in Montreal their claims were pressed by all the delegates, including those of workers and employers, and as far as the Committee is concerned, I think that the matter is being taken up by the Government of India.

Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member tell us whether the Government have pressed the claim of India for having more representation on the Governing Body in view of the discussion which we have had on the floor of this House?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: The answer is in the affirmative.

INDIAN INTERESTS *re* TRADE WITH CEYLON IN COPRA AND COPRA OIL

412. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) whether India has given preferential treatment in regard to goods imported from Ceylon while Ceylon is not extending similar preferential treatment to Indian Goods,

(b) whether the Ceylon Government has given preference to agencies from the United Kingdom for trade in copra and copra oil, although India has been the principal buyer of these commodities for years together, and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to issue instructions to the Trade Commissioner, Ceylon, to guard the interests of India especially in connection with trade in copra and copra oil?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Preferential tariff treatment is accorded to certain goods of Ceylonese origin imported into India from Ceylon. This preference is accorded on a basis of reciprocity, and certain articles of Indian origin exported from India to Ceylon also enjoy preferential tariff treatment in that country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ceylon Government have agreed to the Ministry of Food of H. M. G. purchasing the entire output of Ceylon copra and coconut oil for the five years ending December 1960. It may however be added that copra and copra oil are subject to international allocation and the

relevant Committee of the I E F C (International Emergency Food Council) allots quotas to all countries including United Kingdom and India. The Honourable Member's attention is in this connection invited to the Press Note dated the 15th October 1946 issued by the Industries and Supplies Department, a copy of which is placed on the table. In view of the foregoing, the question of issuing instructions to the Indian Government Trade Commissioner in Ceylon does not arise.

PRFSS NOTL

SHORTAGE OF COPRA AND COCO OIL (Government Assistance to Soap Industry)

The Government of India have for some time been considering the question of instituting a control over the price of Indian copra and coconut oil in consultation with the Government of Madras, Travancore, Cochin and Mysore. Such a control will become necessary if prices do not fall substantially with the arrival of the new crop which is expected to be good both in India and Ceylon.

Prior to the outbreak of war India used to import 200,000 tons of copra per annum. Internal production largely confined to Madras Province and Travancore and Cochin States is in the region of 200,000 tons. There is no supply of coconut oil from Far Eastern sources because of dislocation in production caused by the war and the demands made on the limited quantities available as a consequence of general shortage all over the world in oils and fats. The Ministry of Food H. M. G. have purchased the entire output of Ceylon copra and coconut oil for the five years ending December 1950. Of the total Ceylon production, a quota of 65,000 tons in terms of copra has been allocated to India for the year 1946. It has not been possible to obtain a larger quota for this year but there is reason to hope that the quota will be larger in succeeding years.

Of the 65,000 tons allotted to India for 1946, only a small quantity has arrived so far, on account of a short fall in the Ceylon crop for 1945-46. But it is hoped that the bulk of the quota will be received by the end of the year. Indian copra would also arrive in large quantities by then and internal price should fall substantially.

Since the entire Ceylon crop has been purchased by H. M. G., it will not be possible for some time to import Ceylon coconut oil over and above the quota obtained is a direct Government to Government transaction. Should any importer however, find it possible to import the oil from other sources, any reasonable assistance to secure it will be given. Copra and coconut oil are now on the Open General Licence.

Indian demands for coconut oil as a raw material for industry have increased largely on account of the expansion of the soap industry which developed considerably during the war. The only alternative to coconut oil in the manufacture of soap is hydrogenated oil, of which only small quantities are available at present. Provision has been made for such supplies in the prospective expansion of the hydrogenated oil industry.

Quotas for Soap Manufacturers

Numerous applications are being made to the Government of India for assistance in the matter of supplies. The only oil which the Government are in a position to distribute is the imported oil, which is at present very limited in quantity. The Government of India have already allotted the meagre supplies of Ceylon coconut oil for industrial purposes particularly to the Soap Industry, which is largely dependent on coconut oil and is, therefore, likely to be at a disadvantage compared with the foreign soap industry, which is able to get coconut oil at lower prices than those prevailing in India today. With the exception of a few special cases, direct quotas have been granted only to soap manufacturers whose average production of soap over the last few years has been over 30 tons per month. The Government of India have placed substantial portions of the imports at the disposal of the Government of Bengal, Bombay and the Punjab and Bihar for purposes of distribution, at their discretion, for domestic consumption and small-scale industry. Applicants in these areas who have not been allotted any oil quota should, therefore, approach the Provincial Governments. They should take note of the fact that the bulk of the available coconut oil is of Indian origin and that the distribution of this is not controlled.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES & SUPPLIES,
New Delhi, October 15, 1946

Mr. P. B. Gole: Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a recent telegram in the *Hindustan Times* of the 11th in which the Ceylon Government is thinking of revising the contract with the United Kingdom regarding the five years' Copra Contract?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is a matter in which we are not interested at this stage. The present position is, as I have stated, that the Ceylon Government have entered into an agreement to export all the surplus coconuts and coconut oil to the United Kingdom and as soon as it is received by the United Kingdom, the allocations are made by the International Emergency Food Council who have given an allotment of 65,000 tons to India. If that agreement is set aside, the position will be reconsidered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that before the war when copra was in a bad way, India helped Ceylon and permitted imports of Ceylon copra and oil into India. Will the Honourable Member take it up with the Ceylon Government to release larger quantities of copra and oil for India in the present emergency when India needs these goods?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I think the Honourable Member has not followed my reply. The Ceylon Government have no power over the allotment which will be made to India. They have already entered into an agreement with His Majesty's Government to supply all the surplus to that Government who places it at the disposal of the International Emergency Food Council, which in turn, according to the requirements of the various countries makes allocations and the allocation to India is 65,000 tons.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I understand the answer. The Ceylon Government has recently threatened the United Kingdom with the termination of this agreement and in the event of that happening will the Honourable Member take it up with the Ceylon Government and press for a large supply of coconut oil?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: As soon as the agreement is terminated we shall certainly press for larger supplies.

REPORTS OF THE LABOUR INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE ON THE CONDITION OF LABOURERS IN MICA MINES AND RIKSHA AND HAND-CART PULLERS

413. ***Mr. P. B. Gole.** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) the action that Government have taken on the several *ad hoc* reports made by the Labour Investigation Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. D. V. Rege, I.C.S., and how many of them have been printed,

(b) whether Government propose to place on the table of the House a copy of the steps taken by Government to improve the conditions of labourers in mica mines,

(c) the steps that Government have taken to ameliorate the lot of the labourers in plantations, and

(d) whether Government propose to bring to the notice of the Provincial Governments the report of the Labour Investigation Committee concerning the plight of riksha pullers and hand-cart pullers and ask them to take suitable steps to put a stop to such labour?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a) 38 Reports have been printed. The main defects noticed by the Labour Investigation Committee are the low level of basic wages in a number of industries, absence of standardisation of occupational terms and wages, lack of uniformity in the rates of dearness allowances, unsatisfactory systems of recruitment, promotion, discharge and dismissal, bad working conditions due mostly to the inadequate enforcement of the Factories Act, a tendency on the part of smaller employers to exploit the ignorance of workers with a view to escaping their liability under the Workmen's Compensation and Maternity Benefit Acts, prevalence of 'sweated conditions' in unorganised industries like shellac, mica splitting, coir matting, glass bangles making, cornet making and bidi making, and bad housing. Government have taken up the revision of the Factories Act with a view to the prescription of proper standards in regard to lighting, ventilation safety, health and welfare of workers. The question of strengthening factory inspection services for securing an adequate enforcement of the Act was discussed

at the Conference of Provincial Labour Ministers held on the 14th and 15th October. The Minimum Wages Bill which will eliminate 'sweated' wage conditions is already before the House. Workmen's State Insurance Bill making provision for a combined scheme of sickness, accident and Maternity benefit insurance and medical care and treatment for factory workers has been introduced in the Assembly. The provision of housing for industrial workers was also discussed at the recent Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference and Government will be shortly addressing the Provincial Governments on the subject. These measures will remove a great many of the defects to which the Committee have called attention. A five-year programme of work was discussed at the Labour Ministers' Conference and it is proposed to place it before a meeting of States Ministers on the 29th of this month. Thereafter it is proposed to discuss the programme with representatives of employers and workers so that we may have an agreed programme of action. I hope to be able to make a statement to the House at the next session.

(b) As the Honourable Member is aware, the Miles Miles Welfare Fund has been set up. The Minimum Wages Bill will also considerably benefit labourers in mica mines. Other measures for bringing about an improvement in the conditions of labourers in mica mines will be included in the five-year programme on which I hope to, as I have already stated, make a statement to the House at the next session.

(c) The Labour Investigation Committee's report on plantations is being studied and I shall make a statement on what we propose doing at the next session.

(d) Copies of the reports have been sent to Provincial Governments and I should trust the Provincial Labour Ministers to take adequate remedial action.

Mr P B Gole Will copies of these reports be supplied to the members of this House?

Mr S. C. Joshi: A few copies have been sent to the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly and members who desire to have copies can get them from the Assembly office.

Mr N M. Joshi, May I know whether Government is aware that copies of all the volumes of these reports are not available at all and whether Government is taking steps to make the copies available?

Mr S C. Joshi: I am not aware of the shortage of copies but enquires will be made and if copies are not available the matter will be looked into.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, May I know whether Government will take steps to prevent the pulling of rickshas and handcarts by human labour in Delhi?

Mr S. C. Joshi: That matter will be looked into.

Mr M A F. Hirtzel: Is it a fact that the reports of this Labour Investigation Committee have appeared in the names of individual members and, if so, are we to understand that the whole Committee takes responsibility for all the reports or why has such procedure been adopted?

Mr S C. Joshi, For the sake of convenience it was found necessary to give the investigation work to individual members and the investigations made by each individual member resulted in the submission of a report by the individual member concerned. There is a final consolidated report also, which will be published.

Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether the Rege Committee was appointed for getting the data necessary to make a plan for social security of the workers and if so, whether Government have decided upon a plan with the co-operation of the workers' organisations?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: I have already given the answer in the latter part of my answer to the main question. So far as the first part of the question is concerned the main object of the Committee was to collect full data on the working conditions in various employments.

Miss Maniben Kara: May I know whether social security and unemployment of the working classes was one of the terms of reference of this Committee?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: That was one of the things to be enquired into by this Committee.

Miss Maniben Kara: May I know whether any such plan for social security and unemployment has been contemplated by the Reg. Committee?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: So far as health or sickness insurance is concerned that has already been taken up and so far as other matters are concerned as I have already indicated in my reply, they are being looked into.

SUPPLY OF KEROSENE OIL

414. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state

(a) the latest position regarding the tanker and supply of the kerosene oil,

(b) if Government intend to increase the supply to Provinces if so when and how much, and

(c) if the ration of kerosene oil is to be increased in the near future?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) A statement showing the imports of kerosene for the years 1942-43 to 1945-46 is laid on the table.

Kerosene is in short supply not only in this country but all over the world. The supply of kerosene for internal consumption which fell to about 50 per cent of the average consumption of 1941 on the occupation of Burma and Netherlands East Indies by the Japanese has recently substantially increased as a result of the representations made to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

The tanker position is unsatisfactory, but no difficulty is anticipated in obtaining the tanker required for the needs of quantities now made available to India.

(b) As a result of the increased quota made available by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom the supply to Provinces has been increased with effect from 1st October 1946. They are now receiving on an average 7/8th or then 1941 winter oiltake.

(c) With the increased supply to Provinces it should be possible to increase the ration of kerosene oil to individual consumers. Rapid easing of the position will, however, depend on imports of tin plates which are now in short supply, as increased bulk and semi-bulk distribution cannot be undertaken unless the tin plate stock position improves quickly.

The matter has been taken up with the United States of America through the Agent General to the Government of India in Washington.

Imports of Kerosene from 1942-43 to 1945-46

In ton

Source	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46
1. Bahrein Islands	77,830	57,322	49,469	60,726
2. Burma	20,567			
3. Straits Settlement	3			
4. Other British Possessions	1	1		
5. Iran	243,160	234,618	178,718	517,739
Total	341,561	291,941	428,237	578,465

Seth Govind Das: What is the percentage of the increase in the import of kerosene oil since 1940?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The situation roughly is this. Before the war, India used to receive on an average 700,000 tons of kerosene. The figure then went down, the lowest figure in 1943-44 being 291,000 tons. That was roughly about 40 per cent. of the normal. The figure for 1945-46 was 578,000 tons and since then we have received an additional quota of 10,000 tons per month. So we are now likely to receive the same quantity as we were receiving before the war. But in the meantime the population has increased and consequently the demand has also increased and therefore although we may now be receiving about the same quantity that we were receiving before the war, kerosene will still be in short supply.

Seth Govind Das: Do the Government expect any more increase in the near future?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is very doubtful.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member any information to give to the House as to whether petrol and kerosene were not offered by the American Government working in the Middle East and whether this Government did not refuse such an offer on the plea that dollars must be conserved?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I must ask for notice. I have no information on the point.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what is the quantity of the local output of kerosene?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I believe it is about 5 or 10 per cent. of the total.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the prospect of increasing it?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is a very large question of mineral development on which I cannot give any answer now.

Seth Govind Das: Are any efforts being made to increase the output in our country?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Every effort is being made to increase the quantity allotted to us, as also to increase local production, but as I stated at the beginning, both petrol and kerosene are in short supply throughout the world.

KIDNAPPING OF HINDUS BY PEOPLE OF TRIBAL AREAS AFTER TERMINATION OF WAR

415. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that during the last war, there had been no cases of kidnapping of Hindus by the people of Tribal Areas, and that such cases have started again after the termination of the war? If so, what are the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Kidnapping of both Hindus and Muslims by the inhabitants of the tribal areas in the Frontier unfortunately did not stop during the war and has continued since the war. The actual number of Hindus kidnapped (as distinct from Muslims) is—

1940	77
1941	87
1942	55
1943	16
1944	21
1945	12

Upto October 1st 1946

32

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the Honourable Member is satisfied that these are acts of individuals committed for the sake of ransom or is there any hidden hand behind these kidnappings?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not at all satisfied about the position, and I do not know about any hidden hands, that would require a great deal of secret service and other investigation, but it is a most unsatisfactory position.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the matter receiving the special attention of the Honourable Member and is he taking steps to see that these kidnappings are stopped?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Obviously this question is a part of the larger question of the frontier. It cannot be isolated and separated from it. That larger question, including this question, is receiving our earnest consideration.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has there not been a proposal to arm all the inhabitants of the outlying areas so that they may defend themselves against such inroads and attacks?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There may have been such a proposal—I do not know exactly, but I imagine that most people there have got arms.

PASSPORTS FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESSMEN

416. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that the general practice hitherto followed by the Local Government of Delhi has been to refuse or delay applications of persons connected with the Indian National Congress, for the grant of passports for visiting foreign countries? If so have Government issued clear instructions to the effect that no such distinction should be made in future? If not, do they propose to do so now?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as the Government of India are concerned no such practice was authorised and no distinctions will be tolerated. The Government are prepared to investigate specific complaints.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Member aware that it is almost impossible even today to get a passport to the U S S R?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: If the Honourable Member will bring any specific cases to my notice, I shall certainly inquire into the matter.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is there any secret or other circular issued to a local government that passports to U S S R should not be granted?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member refers to some local government—I do not know which.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Delhi Government.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask from my own experience of some cases why there is this delay in issuing passports to persons wishing to go to Persia and Afghanistan? Has not this Government got the powers to issue such passports?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not tell the Honourable Member, except that we have inherited a very dilatory procedure of Government.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it necessary to obtain the consent of the other government before passports are issued?

(No answer was given)

LOAN OF SERVICES OF AN OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY, BY HYDERABAD STATE

417. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state if it is a fact that some time back the Hyderabad Durbar asked through the External Affairs Department for the services of a

certain officer in the Archaeological Department on loan for appointment as Director of Archaeology in that State?

(b) What action was taken by that Department in this matter, and how does the matter now stand?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Education. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 16th November, 1946, when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for Education.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of order, Sir. I tabled a short notice question to my Honourable friend the Railway Member, he said it has been transferred and it would come in the usual course on the 11th but it was not printed on the 11th or 12th or 13th?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I may inform my Honourable friend that he did not repeat his notice and that is why it was not put down on the order paper. He ought to repeat it for a stated question in any case he is getting a reply from me.

EXPORT OF JUTE CLOTH AND BAGS FROM INDIA TO U.S.A. AND RE-EXPORT TO SOUTH AMERICA

418 *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) whether it is a fact that jute cloth and bags exported by India to the United States of America were subsequently exported to the Union of South Africa by the United States of America,

(b) whether in view of the fact that India has adopted retaliatory measures against the Union of South Africa the export of this commodity and its products was deliberately and purposely stopped to the Union of South Africa, and whether Government propose to launch an emphatic protest with the Government of the United States of America for this act of theirs, and

(c) whether Government propose to stop all exports of jute and its products to the United States of America except on an explicit undertaking from the Government that no part of it will reach the Union of South Africa either from there directly or through any other countries.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b) Government have seen a Press report to the effect that 350 bales of jute goods of Indian origin have been re-exported from the United States to South Africa. This report has on investigation, been found to be correct, and Government have instructed their representatives in the United States to take up the matter, and to lodge a protest, with the appropriate authorities.

(c) Owing to the scarcity of jute manufactures in the United States, the authorities concerned have already taken action to stop leakages at the ports, and also to suspend the issue of export licences for used bags for South Africa and certain other destinations.

Seth Govind Das: Are jute bags still being exported to the United States of America?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Yes.

Seth Govind Das: To what extent?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: According to the quota allotted

INDIANS IN GOA AND OTHER FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA

419 *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state

(a) what steps Government are taking to safeguard the interests and civil liberties of Indians in the Foreign Settlements in India and particularly in Goa, and

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that at present civil liberties in Goa are demonstrated by the recent repeated arrests of Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, a prominent political leader?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (a) and (b) Government take all necessary steps to protect the interests of their own nationals. Regarding the particular case of Goa, attention is invited to the replies given on November the 7th to Mr. Masani's short notice question and to Mr. P. K. Salve's question No. 315-A.

PROPOSED INCLUSION OF EAST AFRICA IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

420. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that East Africa is at present directly under the British Colonial Office,

(b) whether it is a fact that at present Indians have better rights of entry into acquiring of citizenship and property rights as also status under the law as human beings in East Africa than in the Union of South Africa,

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Premier of the Union of South Africa, General Smuts, has recently built up a case for the inclusion of East Africa in the Union of South Africa, and

(d) whether Government propose to give an assurance to this House that they will take all steps in their power to see that East Africa is not merged in the South African Union?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) The Government of India are not aware of any definite move on the part of Field Marshal Smuts for the inclusion of East Africa in the Union of South Africa.

(d) The question of any action in regard to East Africa does not therefore arise.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that during the last session press reports had appeared in various papers of this country that General Smuts is making an effort to devour East Africa and to annex it with South Africa and is the Honourable Member aware that as far as South-West Africa is concerned an effort is being made by Field Marshal Smuts even now?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member is getting slightly mixed up between South-West Africa and East Africa. There is no doubt about South-West Africa and the matter is now in issue before the United Nations General Assembly. So far as East Africa is concerned, Government are not aware of any definite move by General Smuts, but it is a fact that the European settlers in East Africa have made a move on their own behalf, but the question related to Field Marshal Smuts and not to European settlers in East Africa.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Is the Honourable Member aware of the great theory of the all-red route from Cairo to Cape Town and is he aware of the fact that the efforts of British imperialists are to devour, as the Honourable Member said, the whole of Africa from Cairo to the Cape?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, when the Honourable Member and I were both much younger, we both heard of the attempt to have an all-red route, and, as he has used the word, to devour various parts of Africa. There is no doubt that such attempts are being made by various persons and various groups and interests, but the present position is this in regard to East Africa, that efforts are being made by European settlers there to have a kind of federation. This has been opposed stoutly, not only by the Indians in East Africa but by the Arabs and Africans there, they have jointly opposed this and they will continue to oppose it, and I have no doubt that any person seeking to devour these portions is liable to get digestion.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: The External Affairs Department may therefore be expected in its international aspect to support the efforts of these non-Europeans to safeguard their own countries?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Absolutely

DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL, THERMAL AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC RESOURCES OF NERBUDDA TERRITORIES OF CENTRAL PROVINCES

421. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state

(a) what steps Government are taking to develop the mineral, thermal and hydro-electric resources in the country in general and in the Nerbudda territories of the Central Provinces in particular,

(b) whether Government are aware of the extremely rich mineral deposits of the said Nerbudda territories and if so, whether they propose to take early steps for making an exhaustive and intensive geological survey of the areas covered by the said territories, and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for surveying and exploiting the huge bauxite deposits, in particular, manufacture of aluminium?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement placed on the table of the House on the 1st November, 1946 in reply to part (a) of question No. 135, showing the various steps taken for the re-organisation and expansion of the Geological Survey of India, in order to enable the Survey to undertake extensive exploitation of the country's mineral and water resources

The development of the mineral, thermal and hydro-electric power resources of the country lies primarily within the sphere of the Provincial Governments. The Central Government organisations *viz.* the Geological Survey of India, the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, and the Central Technical Power Board, are offering assistance to Provincial Governments where necessary. It is understood that the Central Provinces Government propose to establish a Hydro-Electric Section to study all hydro-electric resources in the Province. All necessary assistance will be given to this section by the Central Technical Power Board.

(b) Government have some idea of the mineral resources of the said Nerbudda territories and the Geological Survey of India is taking steps to undertake necessary survey and investigation, subject to the limit of its resources. It is, however, not possible to undertake exhaustive and intensive geological survey of all these areas at once.

(c) The bauxite deposits in various parts of India have been investigated and are now being re-examined in detail. The manufacture of aluminium is at present undertaken by two private companies. There is no proposal for Government to undertake any such manufacture.

COMPLAINT RE EXPORT OF TIMBER, STEEL, CLOTH AND COTTON FROM INDIA

422. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether Government have examined the complaint that the export of materials useful for the country has been permitted?

(b) What is the amount of the export for timber, steel, cloth and cotton from India during 1945-46 and 1946-47 (upto the 30th of September 1946)?

(c) In the case of cotton how much quantity has gone to (i) China, (ii) Japan, and (iii) the United Kingdom?

(d) In the case of cloth how much has been given strictly against food supply and how much otherwise?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes. Generally export of only such of the materials as are surplus to internal requirements or cannot be absorbed in the country has been permitted.

(b) to (d) The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There is an acute shortage of timber and steel in this country for building houses and I have specific information that stocks of timber in the possession of Government themselves in the Disposal Department have been transferred to the United Kingdom—heavy stocks. Also steel is being exported from this country—steel which would be useful for building houses in this country.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question was about timber, steel, cloth and cotton. Some exports have been permitted in the past but in view of the allegation which the Honourable Member has made, I will examine the question and see that any exports of commodities or articles which are required in India will not be permitted.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to cloth, may I get an assurance from the Honourable Member that cloth will be given only in substitution or barter in payment for food and that essential commodities will not be allowed to be moved to India past a certain date?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Generally that is the policy, subject to the exception that the requirements of some of the neighbouring countries, to their bare minimum, have got to be satisfied by India as a neighbouring country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I have Australia particularly in mind. May I know whether the Honourable Member will look into the question as to whether we should go on exporting cloth to Australia at the very low Indian price of cloth and whether we should go on importing from Australia goods which are very heavily priced against us, including food?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Honourable Member himself suggested in the earlier question that we should export cloth to countries from which we can procure food. Australia is one of the countries which supplies wheat to India and when the Australian Delegation recently came to us, we had a thorough discussion with them and all their requests for increasing the exports of cloth to Australia were turned down.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question was with regard to the relative prices of these two commodities—whether we should buy wheat at the highest price and sell cloth at the lowest price—whether the prices could not be adjusted in a manner which will bring the full realisation of the value into the pockets of Government?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Food is purchased from Australia at the current export price and cloth is also exported at our current export prices. If there is any disparity in the price or the percentages of increase over the pre-war level, the question will be examined.

423. [Cancelled.]

EXPORT OF GROUNDNUTS

424. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what was the total amount of groundnut export permitted in 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46?

(b) Why was the groundnut export permitted in spite of the intention of the Assembly that such export should not be permitted so long as there was any apprehension with regard to famine?

(c) What was the specific negotiation with the United Kingdom authorities in the matter of groundnuts?

(d) Were the groundnuts exported to the United Kingdom purchased on British Government's account in India?

(e) Is it true that such purchases went on even after Government announced that they were not permitting any further exports?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (1) The total export during the three years was 670,828 tons

(b) Exports were prohibited from the 27th February 1946 and no exports have been allowed after that date

(c) There was no such negotiation

(d) Ministry of Food, who are the sole importers in U. K. purchased the groundnuts from the London offices or the London Agents of the established shippers in India

(e) We have no definite information but it is understood that some purchases were made. No quantities were however allowed to be exported. The unshipped holdings with the shippers are being re-sold in the market for internal consumption

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact and can the Honourable Member give information to this House that the British Ministry of Food go on purchasing in the Indian market even after the prohibition was announced and is it further a fact that considerable quantities of groundnut were exported from Indian State ports subsequently to the prohibition mentioned by the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The allegation is not correct. At the end of February when the export of groundnuts was suspended, H. M. G. had in their stocks in India about 35 thousand tons of groundnuts which were not allowed to be exported by the Government of India. 33,000 tons of these have been resold by them to the people from whom they were purchased and the small remaining quantity of about 2,000 tons is also not allowed to be exported and they contemplate reselling it in India.

EMPLOYMENT OF SUPERANNUATED PERSONNEL IN COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

425. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) how many officers who have already reached the age of 55 are still being continued in service in the departments under his control,

(b) how many pensioners were re-employed during the war and are still being continued,

(c) how many of these superannuated men were specialists and technical men, and

(d) when will the services of these men be dispensed with?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Three officers

(b) Ten

(c) Seven of them are either specialists or technical men.

(d) The services of four of them are likely to be dispensed with by the end of February 1947. The services of the other officers will be dispensed with as soon as qualified men to hold their posts are available.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there any attempt by these special officers to train Indians under them, so that there may be no need to get other specialists from abroad?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The training will take considerable time. In a recent conference, for example, about the training of engineers and surveyors for our Mercantile Marine Department, when we went into the question, we found that the training will take several years. We have already commenced the training of our own officers. As soon as our officers are trained, we will see that the British officers are replaced as soon as possible by Indians.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know for how many years the Honourable Member will still go on indenting upon foreign specialists?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: For some of the Departments where technical men are required, it will take five to ten years.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Honourable Member considered the desirability of asking such German internees in this country as are qualified to be released so that they may be useful for some of the Departments?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is an entirely separate question and I require notice of it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member considered the training of some of the officers of the Indian Navy whose services have been dispensed with by the Defence Department and whether some of these men could not be trained up as they would want shorter training than the general public? Will the Honourable Member consider whether some of them cannot be absorbed in the services?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Very few such officers are available. As a matter of fact we require eleven officers and in spite of our best efforts, we have not been able to get more than four so far for training. Attempts are being made to get such persons and we are approaching all sources to find people who could be recruited for further training. If there are any Indian Naval officers, we will be only too glad to have them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that there are several hundred officers—their number is of the order of 2,200—of the Indian Navy who have served Government faithfully for five years and whose services have been dispensed with from the Indian Navy? As these men had worked on the water, would they not be found suitable by Government for training up some of the jobs which he has mentioned?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: None of these 2,200 men mentioned by the Honourable Member have got any elementary training for engineering or surveying. If any of them are available we will be only too glad to have them. We have sent advertisements to the newspapers and we have sent information to the Association of the Dufferin old cadets and various other bodies. If the Honourable Member has got any officers in his mind, he has only got to request them to apply to me.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqui: May I ask who has fixed this period of seven years for training? Were they Indians or non-Indians?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I think it was a Committee consisting of both Indians as well as non-Indians.

Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member tell us the reason why the Indian officers, particularly of the Merchant Navy, are so difficult to be had? Is it not on account of a lot of difference in the wages of the officers employed by the Indian Companies and by the European Companies? Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Foreign companies the Indian officers, though qualified in the same manner as European officers, are not paid the same wages?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The difficulty is that there are so many shipping companies in existence and so many new shipping companies under formation that all available personnel is recruited by them and we feel the difficulty in recruitment.

IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROL DEPARTMENT

426. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) how many officers were employed in the Import and Export Control Department at the end of war and how many are employed now;

(b) whether it is a fact that main work of issuing licences has been transferred to Ports? If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why so many officers are still kept in the Import and Export Department in New Delhi; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of officers issuing import licences in New Delhi is now five against three in the last year?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The number of officers in the Import and Export Control Organizations was 25 and 20 respectively at the end of the war as against 32 and 21 at present

(b) As export licences are as a rule issued by the Export Trade Controllers at ports, there was no occasion to transfer any work in this connection from the headquarters to ports

As regards import licences, Import Trade Controllers at the ports had all along been dealing with the bulk of the items falling in Part IV of the Import Trade Control Schedule. As a result of the liberalisation of the licensing policy and in order to save time and facilitate the work of issuing licences Government of India considered it advisable to transfer licensing of all items in Part IV of the Schedule referred to except certain items, to ports beginning with the July—December 1946 period. The Chief Controller of Imports at the headquarters has still to deal with the licensing work connected with excepted items in Part IV. He is also responsible for licensing of all items falling under Part V of the Schedule.

His office has still to deal with a substantial number of applications for licences and the present strength of the officers is considered just sufficient for the efficient and speedy disposal of the work that comes to be dealt with here. It may be added that with the end of the war and with the re-opening of trade with more and more countries there is an unprecedented increase in the volume of work at the headquarters as well as at the ports. Position will however be reviewed as soon as conditions warrant and any surplus staff found as a result of the review will be released.

(c) No. The number of Deputy Chief Controller of Imports authorised to issue Import Licences was five last year and that number has since been reduced to four.

PAY OF JUNIOR READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI

427, *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Lower Department be pleased to refer to the reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 740 of the 6th March, 1946 and state what action has been taken in regard to the fixation of pay of Junior Readers in the Government of India Press, New Delhi.

(b) Is it a fact that Labour Department letter No. A773(1), dated the 22nd March 1946, addressed to the Manager, Government Press, New Delhi, states that "the Governor General in Council has decided that the pay of a copyholder in unified scale on promotion to the post of a Junior Reader be fixed at the next stage of the Readers' grade, as his pay in the unified scale was substantive?"

(c) If so, why has this not been given effect to so far?

(d) Are Government aware that on account of the delay the copyholders concerned are suffering a loss of Rs. 10 to 12 p.m.?

(e) Is it a fact that in spite of the reply given to part (b) of starred question No. 1636, dated the 8th April, 1946, wherein he had said that "in certain cases a temporary copyholder in the unified scale, if appointed Reader is entitled to Rs. 67 p.m." they are being paid Rs. 55 p.m. only?

(f) Do Government propose to direct that they be paid at the revised rate with retrospective effect from 1st September, 1944?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) and (b) Orders have been issued in letter No. A774(1), dated the 22nd March 1946, that the pay of a Copyholder under the unified scale on promotion to the post of Junior Reader may be fixed at the next stage of the Readers' grade as if his pay in the unified scale was substantive. This was subject to the condition that as and when the unified scale of pay was abolished, the pay of the persons concerned should be re-fixed in the scale of Junior Readers on the basis of the orders which may be issued regarding the abolition of unified scales.

(c), (d) and (e) Effect has already been given to these orders, but cases which involved anomalies or difficulties of interpretation are still under consideration

(f) If it is found that any particular person is entitled to the revised rate, he will no doubt get the benefit of it with effect from the date from which he became so entitled

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: How long will it take the Honourable Member to revise those cases which are at present anomalous?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Each one of these cases is under the separate consideration of the Controller of Printing and Stationery. I do not know how long he will take and how many cases he may have to refer to the Government; but I hope they will be finished very soon.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask if this matter is pending before the Pay Commission for inquiry?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Pay Commission is certainly looking into the cases of all the employees of the Press along with other cases

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is this interim investigation into it? Is it by the Press Manager or by the authority of the Press?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: It is a question of applying the orders which were issued by Government on the 26th March 1946. These orders have been given effect to in most cases, but in some cases there is some doubt or dispute and these individual cases are now being considered

SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

428. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that some Sub-Divisional Officers have been employed continuously for over fifteen years under the Central Public Works Department in New Delhi; if so, then names and reasons for continuous employment for such a long time,

(b) whether Government propose to lay down a rule that the maximum period of service at a stretch at a place will not exceed five years, and

(c) whether it is a fact that there are a number of unqualified overseers employed in New Delhi, if so, their number and reasons for same?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes. A list containing the names of 14 such officers is placed on the table. These officers were kept in Delhi on administrative and other grounds.

(b) The principle underlying the Honourable Member's suggestion has recently been enunciated and accepted by Government but the exact rules to be issued are now under consideration.

(c) Yes. The number of unqualified overseers employed in New Delhi is 135, out of a total of 424 overseers at present employed in New Delhi. Unqualified men were engaged owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable qualified candidates during war-time when there was an unprecedented expansion of the Central Public Works Department. It is now proposed to replace these unqualified men by qualified persons as far as possible.

Statement

- 1 Mr. Gian Chand
- 2 Mr. Ajudhia Nath Misra.
- 3 Mr. M. P. Jain
- 4 Mr. Harbans Sarup
- 5 Mr. S. Man Singh
- 6 Mr. Abdul Ghafoor.
- 7 Mr. Channan Ram.

- 8 Mr. Teja Singh
- 9 Mr. Tajuddin Vohra
- 10 Khan Sahib Ilyas Khan
- 11 Mr. U. S. Aggarwal
- 12 Khan Sahib Mohd. Usman
- 13 Mr. Shugan Chand
- 14 Mr. Pooran Chand

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that besides Delhi and New Delhi there are two more Circles consisting of eight divisions and 48 sub divisions where these Sub Divisional Officers could be posted or could be transferred?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: These officers could be transferred anywhere in India where the C P W D have got their divisions

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Member aware that when persons remain in charge of such offices in one place for 15 years this leads to corruption and most of the corruption today is due to the fact that some officers have become almost fixtures in particular places?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: As I told the House, Government have already accepted the principle that people should not be in one place for more than five years. Whether long continued stay in one place leads to more corruption than otherwise is a matter of opinion. I might add for the information of Honourable Members that these 14 officers have not always been in the same division. There are a number of divisions in Delhi and they have been transferred from one division to another. Out of all these people who have been continuously in Delhi I find three have been in the same division for over 15 years, one for over ten years and others for less than five years.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Member now go into the cases of persons who have been there for over 15 years and see that they are transferred to some place outside Delhi?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why did the Honourable Member say "suitable qualified candidates"? Does he contemplate people who are qualified but who are not suitable?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I did not say 'suitable qualified persons'. I merely said 'It is now proposed to replace these unqualified men by qualified persons as far as possible'.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In the earlier portion of his answer the Honourable Member said, if I remember aright that qualified persons were rejected because they were not suitable and therefore unqualified persons were engaged.

Mr. President: It is all a question of the interpretation of the phrase.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that some of the buildings or at least one of them which had lately fallen was under the supervision of some of these unqualified sub overseers and that the Government have incurred a loss of Rs. 50,000 on account of the negligence of some of these inefficient members of the staff or unqualified sub-overseers?

Mr. President: This does not arise out of this question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: There are as many as 135 unqualified overseers working in New Delhi and Government have so far taken no steps to see that qualified persons are placed in these posts and the result is Government is incurring a loss.

Mr. President: That question does not arise.

INTRODUCTION OF UNIFIED SCALES OF PAY IN OFFICES UNDER CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY

439. ***Mr. Tahiruddin Khan:** Will the Secretary of Works, Mines and Power Department kindly state

(a) whether the Finance Department of the Government of India by their memos No F/44 (12-W-44), dated 19th August 1944 and F/44 (12) 1/44, dated

25th January 1945 introduced unified scale of pay for clerical personnel and proposed to place them in 3 grades viz, 'A', 'B' and 'C' the maximum qualification for entry to the grades being the Matriculation certificate,

(b) will Government kindly state why the benefits of the unified scale were denied to the non-matric junior clerks who were holding appointments in the superior clerical establishment prior to the issue of the Finance Department memoranda referred to above, and

(c) whether it is a fact that non-matric typists and non-matric clerks under the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India (Calcutta Branches) holding appointments prior to the issue of the Finance Department memoranda referred to above are not barred from the scope of the unified scales of pay though they have actually refused to elect the scale as they are already in receipt of pay higher than that of the 'C' grade of the unified scale of pay?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes, but the matriculation certificate was the minimum qualification and not the maximum

(b) The unified scale is not applicable to the junior clerks grade, as junior grade clerks are not required to be matriculates

(c) The unified scale of pay is only applicable to certain specified grades for which matriculation is the minimum educational qualification. Old entrants to such grades are also eligible to elect the unified scale of pay even if they are non-matric. It is a fact that some people have refused to elect the unified scale as they are already in receipt of pay higher than what the unified scale would give them. It was for this reason that option was given to people whether to elect the unified scale or not.

PROMOTION OF NON-MATRICULATES TO 'B' OR 'A' GRADE OF UNIFIED SCALE

430. *Mr. Tamisruddin Khan: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please refer to Labour Department U/O No A/481/88 S, dated 11th April 1945 and the Home Department U/O No HD/U/O, 1837-D/45/Estts (S), dated 17th April 1945 and state whether in reply thereto it was remarked by the Federal Public Service Commission in their U/O No F/11/18-45 (S), dated 25th May 1945, that non-matriculいたes in the inferior establishments should not on principle be allowed promotion to 'B' or 'A' grades of the unified scales of pay, and

(b) if answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state why the non-matric junior clerks holding appointments prior to the introduction of the unified scale and belonging to the superior clerical establishment under the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India (Calcutta Branches) were deprived of the benefit of 'C' grade in the unified scale of pay?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) There appears to be some misunderstanding as the unified scales of pay cannot apply to inferior establishments, irrespective of whether the persons holding the appointments in the inferior establishment are matriculates or non-matriculいたes. The unified scales of pay are only applicable to those grades of the superior clerical establishment for which matriculation is the minimum qualification, subject to the reply which I have already given in answer to the previous question.

(b) The question regarding non-matric junior clerks has already been answered in reply to part (c) of the previous question.

UNIFIED SCALE OF PAY FOR NON-MATRIC CLERKS UNDER THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

431. *Mr. Tamisruddin Khan: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state whether.

(a) the Department of Labour in their U/O No A/481/88/S, dated 7th August 1945 to the Controller of Printing and Stationery India confirmed that the non-matric junior clerks should be brought on the unified scale of pay irrespective of the fact whether they are promoted to the next higher grade or not;

(b) whether the decision of the Labour Department at (a) above was duly communicated by the Controller to the Heads of the Presses and to the Deputy Controller of Stationery, Calcutta with reference to latter's U O I No G2/, 18619, dated 18th June 1945 for necessary action;

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, will the Government please state why the junior clerks under the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India (Calcutta Branches) have not so far been brought on to the unified scale of pay and allowed to draw the pay described for 'C' grade clerks; and

(d) whether Government propose to investigate into the matter and bring the junior clerks on the unified scale of pay with retrospective effect?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) No, Sir Government decided that if suitable matrices cannot be found, temporary promotion may be given to such non-matriculates as are considered fit to perform the duties of a clerk

(b) The decision of Government was communicated to the Deputy Controller of Stationery, Calcutta

(c) The unified scale of pay is not applicable to junior clerks

(d) Does not arise

BASIC SALARY OF JUNIOR CLERKS UNDER THE DEPUTY CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY CALCUTTA

432. *Mr. Tamisuddin Khan: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state:

(a) whether the abnormal rise of prices specially in the case of essential necessities of daily life has ranged between 3 to 4 times the pre-war level, in Calcutta,

(b) whether the Central Pay Commission according to the ratio of high prices of essential foodstuffs has already awarded their views and expressed through daily newspaper that the basic salary for the junior clerks, no matter they are matrices or non-matrices should be Rs 100 minimum,

(c) whether the Deputy Controller of Stationery, Calcutta, has recommended the basic salary at Rs 50—8—80 for the junior clerk to the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India, New Delhi under his reference No G 8/2503, dated the 18th September, 1946, and

(d) if the answers to (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to investigate into the matter and state the ratio calculated by the Deputy Controller of Stationery, Calcutta and the recommended basic salary for the junior clerks referred to in (c) above?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Prices of essential necessities of daily life have increased in Calcutta as in other places, but I am not aware of the exact percentage

(b) I am not aware of any such expression of views by the Central Pay Commission

(c) I understand that the Deputy Controller suggested this scale on a preliminary enquiry by the Controller of Printing and Stationery in connection with the work of the Central Pay Commission

(d) It is difficult to follow this question but the Honourable Member is no doubt aware that the entire question of scales of pay is under investigation by the Central Pay Commission

REMARKS OF M. MOLOTOV RE INDIAN DELEGATES IN PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE

†433. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the remarks of M. Molotov upon the attitude and the role played by the Indian delegate in

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Paris Peace Conference and Sir Samuel Ranganadhan's reply that the Indian representatives acted independently of Great Britain's Delegation, and

(b) whether Government of India has asked for full information about the statement made by their delegate?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes

(b) Government received full information from their delegation during the Conference on all points of importance

REPRESENTATION OF TRIBAL PEOPLE IN THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

†434. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state

(a) if the tribal peoples will be given full and real representation in the concerned Advisory Council of the Constituent Assembly, and

(b) how do Government propose to do this?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 20 of the Statement dated the 16th May, 1946, issued by the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy. It will be for the Constituent Assembly to set up an Advisory Committee and to determine its composition in terms of that paragraph

REPRESENTATION OF TRIBES IN EXCLUDED AND PARTIALLY EXCLUDED AREAS IN THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

†435. *Prof. N. G. Ranga. Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to give representation on any Advisory Council of the Constituent Assembly to the tribes inhabiting various areas known as Excluded and Partially Excluded areas,

(b) if so, in what Advisory Council and in what strength, and

(c) if so far, no decision has been taken, whether Government propose to give adequate representation to the All-India Excluded Areas and Tribal Peoples Association to champion their case?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to his question No. 434

REPRESENTATION OF WEAVERS, ETC., ON THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

†436. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if the forty million handicraftsmen, including the ten million weavers will be given adequate and proportionate representation on the Advisory Committee to the Constituent Assembly?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Question No. 434. It is not clear how handicraftsmen or weavers can be included in the Advisory Committee which is meant to deal with Tribal areas, Fundamental Rights and Minority Rights

437. [Cancelled]

RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION CONCERNING MARITIME WORKERS

438. *Miss Maniben Kara: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state how many conventions of the International Labour Organisation concerning maritime workers have been ratified by Government?

(b) Are Government aware of the dissatisfaction among maritime workers because of the non-ratification and non-application of these conventions?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take steps to speed up the ratification of the conventions and make their application effective within a short period of time?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Three out of 13 conventions, excluding those which were adopted at the last Seattle Conference in June 1946

(b) No, Sir

(c) This does not arise

Miss Maniben Kara: I did not quite follow how many conventions of maritime workers have been ratified by Government?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Three out of 13 conventions, excluding those which were adopted at the last conference in June 1946

Miss Maniben Kara: Is the Honourable Member aware that all India Seafarers' Federation passed a Resolution demanding that the Government of India should ratify the conventions already passed because there is great dissatisfaction amongst the seafarers for not having this convention ratified?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question of ratifying other conventions is under consideration. I may mention that though the Government of India have already adopted three out of 13 conventions, the Government of the United Kingdom have so far ratified only two out of 13

Miss Maniben Kara: In view of the fact that the Resolution has been passed recently at the maritime conference calling upon the Government to consult and invite the co-operation of the organisation of seafarers before any such ratification takes place, do I have the assurance of the Honourable Member that that procedure will be followed here also?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Their opinion also will be taken into consideration when the Government considers the question of ratification.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONFERENCE AT SEATTLE, U S A

439. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of conventions, recommendations and resolutions concerning the conditions of work and living of maritime workers were adopted by the International Maritime Conference at Seattle, United States of America in June this year,

(b) whether in view of the fact that the Government delegate to the above Conference voted for the recommendations, resolutions and conventions it is the policy of the Government to immediately ratify them, and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to speed up action on these resolutions, recommendations and conventions?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) It will be the aim of Government to ratify or accept as many of the Conventions, Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the Seattle Conference as possible after consultation with the various interests concerned

(c) The various Conventions, Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the Seattle Conference are being examined departmentally and will, in accordance with the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, be placed before the Legislature as soon as practicable

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the Government of India will place their decisions before the legislature for its consideration?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have mentioned that as soon as Government decides to ratify any of the conventions, they will place the matter before the legislature

Miss Maniben Kara: With reference to part (a) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that on the accommodation committee, Mr Mungat, one of the Advisers who attended this conference very strongly protested against the inadequate and most inhuman conditions of life which the seafarers in India are subjected to. Do I have the assurance of the Honourable Member that looking at the appalling conditions of the seamen in this country, particularly about accommodation, that something will be done immediately?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Government are desirous of improving their conditions as soon as possible. But the Honourable Member will realise that it will require a number of changes before their lot can be improved and the question is therefore being examined as to how this can be done.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Will Government take the precaution of not ratifying any conventions in advance of such ratification by other countries who have resources and can go ahead? Is there any reason why India should—as she did about 15 years ago—ratify labour conventions in advance of countries which were competing with her, like Japan, Belgium, etc? Will the Honourable Member tell this House that Government will keep this consideration in mind?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: We will have to look to our own conditions and we cannot always go on the lines adopted by other countries.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

CULTIVATION OF TEA IN INDIA

440. *Sri M. K. Jinachandran: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Government of India propose to grant licences or give facilities for increasing the area of cultivation of tea in India? If so, what is the extent of the area or the nature of the facilities proposed to be given?

(b) Do Government propose to grant the licences and facilities to Indian newcomers instead of the established plantations?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b) Extension of tea cultivation is governed by the provisions of the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938, section 26 of which empowers the Indian Tea Licensing Committee to issue permits for planting tea in any land not planted with tea on the 31st March 1943. The total permissible area for which permits could be issued during the period ending 31st March 1948, has been fixed at 9904 acres. Permits are granted by the Committee in accordance with the Tea New-Planting Rules, 1943, published in Part II, Section 3 of the *Gazette of India*, dated the 7th April 1945. These rules do not provide for the grant of permits to new-comers.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION IN PROVINCES FOR OFFICERS OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

441. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power please state whether the officers working under his Departments in various Provinces have housing accommodation provided for by Government?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the negative when do Government propose building quarters for their employees?

(c) Is it a fact that the Executive Engineer in charge of Central Buildings, Karachi, had half of a bungalow during the beginning of war, and that now the whole bungalow has been requisitioned for him in a Co-operative Housing Society?

(d) Will Government please issue instruction to put a stop to this?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Only in certain cases.

(b) There is no general programme for construction of residential accommodation for Central Government officers working in various provinces. Each case, when it arises, is considered on merits.

(c) The information is not available, but is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

(d) Government have no authority to requisition any new buildings and hence the question of issuing instructions does not arise.

REQUISITIONING OF HOUSES AFTER THE TERMINATION OF WAR.

442. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state why houses are being requisitioned when the war is over?

(b) Do Government propose to pass orders, preventing the requisitioning of newly-built houses in order to encourage construction of a large number of houses?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to requisitioning by the Government of India. Requisitioning of private buildings was stopped so far as the Central Government was concerned shortly after the war with Japan was over.

(b) Government have at present no authority to requisition any new property.

REPORTS OF THE REGE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE ON ABUSES IN INDUSTRIES

443. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state—

(a) what steps Government have taken to remedy the many abuses existing in a number of industries brought to light by the reports of the Rege Investigation Committee,

(b) if no steps have been so far taken, whether Government propose to take early steps in that connection,

(c) if so, the steps that Government propose to take,

(d) whether it is a fact that the Rege Investigation Committee was appointed with a view to collect data for drawing up a plan of social security in pursuance of a resolution of the Standing Labour Committee,

(e) whether Government propose to take steps to draw up the plan of social security, and

(f) whether Government propose to appoint the mixed Committee as recommended by a unanimous resolution of the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee? If so, when?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a), (b) and (c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to question No. 413.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f) I have in my answer to questions put by Mr. Gokhale given an indication of the steps that Government have taken. I hope to be able to make a full statement of the action that we propose to take on the Labour Investigation Committee's reports to the House at the next session.

RECALL OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES FROM SIMLA AND CALCUTTA TO NEW DELHI AND PRESSURE ON HOUSING IN NEW DELHI

444. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power please state how many Departments of Government have been recalled from Simla and Calcutta into New Delhi, which are they and why were they recalled?

(b) Has the pressure on living space in New Delhi increased on account of such action, and what steps do Government propose to take to relieve this pressure?

(c) What is the total square area released by (i) reduction in the Army activities and personnel, and (ii) withdrawal of the American Army and other personnel?

(d) How many houses belonging to Indian States in New Delhi were taken and which of them still continue under requisition?

(e) How many houses belonging to private individuals were taken and are still under requisition?

(f) When and by what process do Government intend to relieve the pressure on housing?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) A statement is laid on the table giving the names of sections or branches of Departments or offices of the Central Government brought to Delhi from Simla and Calcutta. This was done in the interests of efficiency and smooth working of the Departments concerned.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, attention is invited to the reply to part (b) of Starred Question No 48 to which a reply was given on the 29th October 1946

(c) (i) 1,53,893 sq ft

(ii) 3,27,181 sq ft

(d) 19 houses belonging to Indian States in New Delhi were placed at Government's disposal, of which 18 are still with Government

(e) 869 houses in Delhi and New Delhi belonging to private individuals were requisitioned by the Central Government of which 297 are still under requisition

(f) The whole question is now under the active consideration of Government

List of Offices moved to Delhi from Simla and Calcutta

Department	Section or Office
1 War	Historical Section
2 Labour	Resettlement Branch
3 Labour	Resettlement Directorate
4 Commonwealth Relations	Haji Section
5 War	Farms, Remounts & Veterinary Dte of the C M. G. Branch and Prisoners of War Dte
6 Communications	General Section, Evacuation II Section
7 Home	Pol (E) Section Internment Section, Estt (S) Section, Public Section
8 Agriculture	
9 Communications	Civil Aviation Dte
10 Health	Public Health Section
11 Supply	Ministry of Supply Mission
12. Health	Director General, Indian Medical Service, Resettlement Section
13 Home	Cash Branch, R & I Section
14 Legislative	Accounts & Estt Branch
15 External Affairs	Ditto
16. Political	Ditto.
17. Crown Finance	
18 Education	
19. Labour	Chief Inspector of Explosives.
20 Health	Medical General, Cash & Issue Sec
21. Transport	Consulting Engineer (Roads) and Indian Roads Congress
22. Home	
23. Labour (C. P. W. D)	Estt. CPWD and 'M' Branch.
24. War	DMS III Administrative Dental Section.
25. Commerce	Economic Adviser's Office.

Department	Section or Office
28. Communications . . .	Rly Inspectorat Branch
27. Military Finance . . .	D F A (A G) and Regulation Section
28. War . . .	Personal Services Dte, Pensions Br, M. G. O. Br. (MG/OS 18).
29 Education . . .	D. G., Archaeology
30 Finance . . .	Central Board of Revenue, Ex 1 & 2 Branches, 1 Regulation and 1 & 2 Branches
31 Railway	Traffic and Commercial Section
32. Legislative	Pensions Appeal Branch
33 Labour	C. R., Cash, Administration Branch
34. Labour	
35 Works, Mines and Power	" Stationery & Printing " and " Accounts & General " Branches
36. Industries and Supplies . . .	
37. Commerce	Commerce Branch
38 War	Central Provision Office
39 Works, Mines and Power . . .	Allotment section of estate office
40 Works, Mines and Power . . .	Office of the Chief Lady Superintendent.
41 Food	Oil Seeds & Vansapati Controllers Office.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TARIFF BOARD *RE* PROTECTION TO WAR-TIME INDUSTRIES

445. *Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state why nothing has been done so far to implement the recommendations of the Tariff Board as regards the protection to war-time industries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Government's orders on eight of the Tariff Board's report out of the 15 received so far, will be issued shortly. The departmental examination of four more reports has been completed and steps have been taken to complete the examination of the remaining reports with the least possible delay. I may assure the Honourable Member that all possible steps are being taken to expedite the issue of orders on the Tariff Board's reports.

BAN ON ANY SECTION OF POPULATION ENTERING A PARTICULAR TRADE IN
BRITISH INDIA

446. *Captain Syed Abid Hussain: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether it is a fact that within the limits of British India there exists no ban on any section of the population entering into a particular trade?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 14th November 1946, when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

INDIANS IN MAURITIUS

447. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indians in Mauritius are not able to enjoy their legal rights due to the racial favouritism of the Government there,

(b) if it is a fact that only thirty minutes are assigned for Hindustani classes in Primary Schools, although the number of Indians in that country is more than fifty per cent of the whole population,

(c) if it is also a fact that, while teaching of French and English is compulsory, that of Hindustani is not so, and

(d) if it is further a fact that Indian girls after passing sixth class in Primary Schools are not allowed to pursue further studies in a Middle School or College unless they change their names into Christian names and their dress into European dress?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India are not aware of any racial discrimination against Indians in the exercise of their legal rights

(b) Government have no information on this point

(c) The common medium of instruction is Creole or a corrupt form of French Indian languages are used occasionally. In the higher schools the teaching is conducted in English. The use of French and of the vernacular is allowed where it is found necessary

(d) The Government have no definite information on the point. Mr. Ridley, who was deputed to Mauritius to inquire into the condition of Indians there, however, reported in 1940 that there were practically no Indian girls attending secondary schools and that the fact that the present State-Aided Schools were denominational acted as a strong deterrent to Indian parents

REPRESENTATION OF INDIANS ON PUBLIC BODIES IN MAURITIUS

448. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians are not given representation according to their population in the public bodies of Mauritius like the Municipalities and District Boards, and

(b) whether it is a fact that they are given only ten per cent representation on the above-mentioned representative bodies while their population is more than fifty per cent?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) According to the Report of Mr. Ridley, who visited Mauritius in 1940, there were two nominated Indian members in the Legislative Council which consisted of the Governor, eight *ex-officio* members, nine nominated members and ten elected members. There was no Indian elected member. Indians in Mauritius number about 270,000, that is, 64 per cent of the total population.

There were two Indian representatives on the Municipal Council of Port Louis, although Indians own no less than two thirds of the property in the Municipality.

The Township Boards at Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill are nominated by the Governor. There was an Indian Member in two of the Boards. But this did not satisfy the needs and aspirations of the Indian residents, and the introduction of a more democratic system was being demanded.

RESTRICTIONS ON PROPAGANDA OF HINDUSTANI LANGUAGE IN MAURITIUS

449. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) whether there are any restrictions on the propaganda of Hindustani languages and Hindustani reviews in Mauritius; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Prof. Basudev Bishan Dayal, a Hindu Missionary in Mauritius, was twice sentenced for defying the restrictions imposed upon him for carrying on his missionary work?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government are not aware of any such restrictions.

(b) According to the information available with the Government of India Mr Basudev Bishan Dayal was prosecuted under Defence Regulations on February 22, 1944, for holding, in breach of Regulations, a public meeting without having previously applied to the Commissioner of Police for authorisation to do so. Before prosecution he had been warned both orally and in writing of the consequences of persisting in his course of action. In July 1944, as a result of a reference by the Government of India, information was received that he had been released before expiration of the full sentence.

The Government of India have no information about any later prosecution.

INDIAN LABOURERS IN MAURITIUS

450. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal. Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian labourers in Mauritius get a small wage ranging from one rupee four cents to one rupee fifty cents only,

(b) whether it is a fact that in Indian labourer in that country with five or six children is given only two unventilated small rooms made of sugar cane straw,

(c) whether it is a fact that Ayurvedic or Unani medicines are not allowed to be sold in the market of Mauritius, and

(d) whether it is a fact that Indians are given fresh posts in Government Department if they change their names into Christian ones?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. (a) The Government understand that wages of labourers in Mauritius are in that neighbourhood. In July 1946 an island wide increase of 25 per cent. was sanctioned by the minimum wages Board.

(b) According to Mr. Ridley, the commonest type of house on the estates is made of cane trash. In some cases also stems, bamboo and tamarind are used for walls and partitions, and cane trash for the roof. The houses visited were clean and kept in good repair, and housing in general was quite satisfactory.

Off the estates the housing condition of Indians was not so satisfactory. The houses were usually of an inferior type. Only about 13 per cent. of the labour employed in the estates resided on the estates.

According to the report of the Commission of enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in Mauritius in 1943, in some estate camps in the North the old cheap type of hut built of loose stone walls plastered with cow dung, with a low thatched roof and poor ventilation, was being replaced by rows of more modern rooms with concrete walls and corrugated iron roofs. The living space, however, provided in these rooms to labourers who had families of several children was inadequate.

(c) The Government have no information on the point.

(d) The Government have no information to this effect. But Mr. Ridley said that it was not possible to give an accurate list of Indians employed in the various Departments since it was a common custom in Mauritius that when an Indian adopted another religion or European ways of living he ceased to regard himself as an Indian and was classed as a member of the general population. Moreover, not infrequently Indians adopted French names.

In dealing with applications for appointments, matters of transfer and promotion there was no proved racial discrimination. Certain leading members of the Indian community had alleged such racial discriminations but the allegation was difficult to prove or disprove.

HINDUSTANI TEACHERS IN MAURITIUS

451. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustani teachers in Mauritius get a very low pay as compared to teachers of French and English,

(b) whether it is a fact that the property qualifications in Mauritius to become a voter are as high as Rs 25 per mensem as rent or Rs 50 per mensem as salary or Rs 3,000 worth of property,

(c) whether it is a fact that Indians holding degrees of Indian Universities to practise law and medicine are not allowed to do so in Mauritius;

(d) what are the steps which Government propose to take to redress the above-mentioned grievances of our Nationals in Mauritius, and

(e) whether Government propose to send their ambassador to Mauritius to look after the interest of our Nationals there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Government of India have no information on the point

(b) Yes

(c) Government have no information on the point

(d) No discrimination is involved in (b) above since the qualifications for Registration in the Electoral Roll are the same for everybody. As regards (a) and (c), Government will make enquiries and will take up the matter with His Majesty's Government if found necessary.

(e) There is no such proposal at present. The Government will, however, consider the suggestion.

LICENCES FOR EXPORT OF CASTOR OIL

452. ***Mr. Vadial Lalubhai:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that due to the present food shortage, all kinds of seeds and its export policy are controlled by the Food Department as a result of which, the control on the export of castor oil, which is not edible, affects the interests of the castor seed oil industry, as licences for the export of castor oil are not freely granted,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of placing castor oil on the free list so that castor oil may be freely exported to the advantage of the local castor seed crushing industry and agriculture which would in turn benefit by the production of oil cakes,

(c) whether Government are aware that during pre-war times, India was exporting castor seed in large quantities and that during war time castor seed crushing industry had prospered, which is now going down as a result of the policy of Government to restrict the export of castor oil and also of not using it for locomotive lubrication, and

(d) if so, what steps do Government intend to take to avoid any harm being done to the oil seed crushing industry and to agriculture?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) to (d). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House on the 7th November 1946 to his starred question No 285

NUMBER OF INDIANS IN GERMANY

453. ***Mr. G. B. Dani:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state how many Indians are in Germany, and since how long?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that Indians in Germany do not get food, clothings and any jobs according to their qualifications?

(c) Have the Government of India taken any steps either to relieve their difficulties or to call them back to India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) There are estimated to be 92 Indians at present in Germany of whom 69 have hitherto been traced. It is not known exactly how long each has been in Germany but it is thought that most of them were living there at the beginning of the War

(b) and (c) The Government of India are aware that conditions in Germany entail hardship for the entire civilian population of all nationalities. The Indian Military Mission in Berlin is taking all possible steps to relieve distress among Indian nationals in Germany, to secure them extra food and clothing when necessary and to assist them in every way possible. They are also making every effort to secure passages as quickly as possible for all those desiring to return to India

NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM COMPANIES

454. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state what policy has been adopted by the Government of India regarding nationalisation of established Petroleum Companies, such as Assam Oil Company and Burma Oil Company now operating in Assam, and whether under the present policy the Government of Assam has any authority to nationalise the Industry so far as operations in the Province itself are concerned?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: *First part*—No policy has been adopted by this Government in regard to nationalisation of established Petroleum Companies now operating in Assam or elsewhere

Second part—Does not arise. The question is for the consideration of the Government of Assam

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN ASSAM

455. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state whether the Government of Assam asked for any assistance from the Government of India in the matter of carrying out their Hydro-electric projects in the Province? If so, do Government propose to grant any assistance?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The reply to the first part is in the affirmative

The Central Technical Power Board have made a preliminary survey of all the potential loads in areas which could be commanded by hydro-electric projects in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills at the end of September 1946 and they hope to send in the near future a Project Officer to make a reconnaissance survey of sites in these Hills in consultation with the officers of the Assam Government. They also propose to send another Project Officer shortly to start the examination of the prospects for nursery power developments to the north and south of the Brahmaputra and to the west of Gauhati in the Kamrup District. The Central Technical Power Board will then be in a better position to advise the Government of Assam how they might best proceed in the matter

REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS IN TEA ESTATES

456. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state how many registered Trade Unions are there in Tea Estates, showing separately unions in the Indian and European-owned Tea Estates?

(b) Are the Government aware that Tea plantation labourers are mostly illiterate, and that they are themselves unable to form a Trade Union?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a) According to information available with the Government of India it appears that there are six registered trade unions in Tea Estates. No information showing whether they are in the Indian or European owned Tea Estates is available

(b) Yes.

REPEAL OF "CHIN HILL REGULATION"

457. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state whether it is a fact that British Indian Subjects are not allowed to go beyond Nihugarad in Naga Hills without a permit from the Political Agent of the Manipur State?

(b) Are Government aware that Naga Hills is a British territory and that permits are required even for a journey to Kohima, which is the headquarter town of Naga Hills?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, under what provisions of law are such permits demanded, and do Government propose to abolish this restriction immediately?

(d) Are Government aware that under an ancient Regulation called "Chin Hill Regulation" introduced by the Government of India the district and Police Officers known as Superintendents are competent to evict British Indian Subjects from Hill districts and Hill areas within twenty-four hours? If so, do Government propose to repeal this Regulation forthwith?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c) It is a fact that under the Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873 no one other than officers on Government duty and British Indian residents of Manipur and the Naga Hills may go beyond a certain line in the Naga Hills without a pass. The territory in point is part of an Excluded Area and is therefore in the charge of the Governor of Assam acting in his discretion. The restrictions have already been relaxed in the case of members of any political groups wishing to visit the areas concerned, and the question whether they should be further liberalized or removed is under consideration.

(d) Yes. Under Regulation V of 1896, which has been extended to the Hill areas of Assam, the Superintendent or Deputy Commissioner if satisfied that the presence of any person who is not a native of such area is injurious to the peace or good administration of the area, may for reasons to be recorded in writing order such person to leave the area within a given time.

Government are considering what steps should be taken in regard to or modification in this regulation.

RETURN TO IMPHAL IN MANIPUR STATE OF EVACUATED INDIAN TRADERS

458. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if the British Indian Traders who had evacuated from British Reserves of Imphal in the Manipur State and whose land and other properties were forfeited by the Political Agent of Manipur have been allowed to return to Imphal and resume their business?

(b) Have all of their landed properties, buildings and movables been returned to them? If so, when?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) I am placing on the table of the House for the information of the Honourable Member a copy of the Orders passed by His Excellency the Governor of Assam on August 14, 1946, which *inter alia* make it clear that British Indian Traders are free to enter the British Reserve in Manipur and also provide that the houses, other properties and any available money due on account of rent, etc., should be made over to the traders concerned. Detailed information of the dates on which the various houses and other properties etc. were returned is not readily available.

ORDERS OF THE GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

Shillong, the 14th August 1946

Read—Petitions of certain Indian merchants as in the enclosed list and from other persons for permission for return to the British Reserve in Manipur

Order—His Excellency the Governor is pleased to order that

(1) As there is no law excluding foreigners the petitioners and other Indian traders including those who never forfeited their right to the patta held by them, should be allowed ingress into the British Reserve in Manipur,

(2) Applications for new leases of lands they formerly held should be considered sympathetically by the Political Agent if the land is not required for other purposes

(3) Such of the petitioners and other persons, already given permission to return to Imphal, as may be granted new leases should be liable to pay their land revenues and taxes in arrear, if any, for old ones, and this should be a condition precedent to the grant of a new lease

(4) Only one shop site should be settled with each trader with an additional site for a garage where necessary.

(5) They should be allowed possession of their houses and other properties in the British Reserve in Manipur and, those who present such claims, be given any available money due to them, e.g., rent collected from the Military authorities or other tenants. But they should be left to claim for further redress if there are any parties whom they can sue and to file judicial applications in the Court of the Political Agent in Manipur

(6) The above orders should take effect immediately

R W GODFREY,

459. [Cancelled].

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

CENTRAL MARITIME BOARD FOR INDIA

67. **Miss Maniben Kara:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Central Maritime Board composed of representatives of seafarers, shipowners and Government on the lines of such bodies in the United Kingdom and other countries,

(b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, when do Government propose to take this step, and

(c) what procedure do they propose to follow?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The U. K. National Maritime Board is not a tripartite organisation but only a bipartite one, comprising representative of shipowners and seafarers. The Government of India do not propose at present to set up a Maritime Board in India along the lines of the U. K. Maritime Board. They have, however, under consideration the question of setting up a Maritime Labour Advisory Committee comprising representatives of Government shipowners and seafarers to advise Government on maritime labour problems.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

AMERICAN SURPLUS FOOD STORES HANDED OVER TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state when the American officials handed over the surplus food stores to the Government of India?

(b) Who took charge of these stores on behalf of the Government of India?

(c) Has the Food Department accurate list of the stores handed over the Government of India and the places where this foodstuff is lying?

(d) Is it a fact that the foodstuff is still in the possession of the Army personnel and the Food Department has not the correct record of the quantity available for disposal at a particular place?

(e) Are Government aware that the purchasers are often disappointed to find that the articles they have purchased are not at the place mentioned in the sale document?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The U. S. A. Army handed over the surplus food stores to the Government of India during the period 20th March to 6th May 1946.

(b) The Army accepted transfer of charge on behalf of the Director General of Disposals, Government of India.

(c) The Food Department is in possession of the stock-lists for various depots as made out by the U. S. A. Army authorities.

(d) The stocks are still in the custodial charge of Army personnel. It is true that the quantities in some instances do not agree with the stock lists with the Food Department.

(e) In some instances articles sold are not available in the depot mentioned and for this reason of sale orders are made specifically subject to the stocks being actually available.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what is the quantity that is not accountable, that is, the difference of the quantity handed over by Americans as in their books and the quantity which is now in the books of the Disposals Directorate?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The total quantity mentioned in the stock list was 58,000 tons, and the quantity not accounted for is about 8,000 tons.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Was no one from the Food Department present to verify the stocks and the lists when the stocks were handed over?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The stocks were handed over in a very short time in a summary way. The items handed over were very large in number and scattered. It was not possible for the army personnel to verify the stocks before they were actually taken over.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has this been communicated to the army authorities and the American authorities who handed it over and who might be under the impression that they handed over 8,000 tons more than was actually handed over?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The accounts are now being made up and if will be seen what the deficiency is and what it is due to, and then the matter will be taken up.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the value of the foodstuff that is lost?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The total value is about 8 crores of rupees. I cannot say what the value is of these 8,000 tons because they refer to various items.

APPOINTMENT OF MR V K KRISHNA MENON AS AMBASSADOR FOR WESTERN COUNTRIES

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that he has appointed Mr V K Krishna Menon as his personal travelling Ambassador for the Western Countries,

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, will Government please state in what capacity he was sent to interview M. Molotov and now to the United States of America,

(c) the terms of his appointment, his salary and allowances, and

(d) will Government place on the table of the House a copy of his report which he is said to have submitted to Government on his recent discussions with the Soviet Foreign Commissar M. Molotov?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The question of appointing Mr V K Krishna Menon to explore possibilities of establishing diplomatic relations with certain countries in Europe has been under consideration. It was considered desirable to make an informal and semi-official approach at first before a formal approach was made. Meanwhile he was asked to meet various representatives of foreign Governments in London and elsewhere on behalf of the Vice President to convey the greetings of the Interim Government and to state that we desired to develop friendly relations with those countries.

(b) In view of the food scarcity in India it was decided to approach the Government of the U S S R and to request them to send wheat or rice to India. This request was sent direct to Moscow and as M. Molotov, the Foreign Minister of the U S S R, was then in Paris for the Peace Conference, Mr V K Krishna Menon was requested to pay a personal visit to him to convey this request as

well as the greetings of the Interim Government. He carried with him a personal letter from the Vice-President to M Molotov. Mr Krishna Menon is now functioning as an alternate delegate with the Indian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly.

(c) Mr Krishna Menon has been working in an honorary capacity and has been paid only his travelling expenses. While acting as a member of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, he will receive the same allowances as other non-officials on the Delegation.

(d) It is not customary to place confidential reports on the table of the House. It may be stated, however, that the conversations with M Molotov were very friendly and he expressed his willingness to exchange diplomatic representatives with India. It was proposed that this might be gone into further in Moscow in December next.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the known pro-communist views of Mr Menon and his close association with the Communist party in Great Britain, may I know whether Mr Menon was the right man to have been selected for negotiation with the Russian Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Mr Menon was chosen obviously because he was considered an excellent person for this kind of work. I will not go into the Honourable Member's insinuation about his communist views, etc., I also hold communist views in a large number of matters. As a matter of fact the result of Mr Menon's visit to Paris to meet M Molotov has been very fortunate for us, as Honourable Members might see from what is happening in the United Nations Assembly where a large number of countries are supporting us in our stand in South Africa, and in other matters.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Will the Honourable Member tell us whether any party other than the head of the State can send such personal and unofficial ambassadors on the diplomatic plane?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Obviously, it has been done by me.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Will the Honourable Member kindly consider the desirability of consulting international lawyers as regards international etiquette?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India follows international etiquette and also chooses to function, as far as possible, as an independent Government.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Facts are different from fiction.

Mr. President: That is an argument.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether it was a Cabinet decision or a decision taken by the Honourable Member himself?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It was a decision taken by me in consultation with all the members of the Cabinet.

REDUCTION IN PRICES OF MATCHES

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please explain how the prices of matches have been reduced, since the Honourable the Finance Member made his statement in this connection during the last Budget Session?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, I am glad to be able to answer this question. Yesterday there was a supplementary question on this subject by my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar which I rather misunderstood and to which I think I gave a misleading reply. The correct position is this. The size of match box most commonly produced in India contains 50 to 60 match sticks. At the time the Finance Member made his budget announcement, a box of 60 matches was priced at 9 pies. Subsequent to it the match companies agreed to place on the market a box of 50 matches priced at 6 pies. There were

no changes in the prices of other sizes but these are not produced in any appreciable quantity.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Being a very inveterate smoker I am a very heavy consumer of matches. May I know whether the Honourable Member has noticed persistent deterioration in quality, so that while the price position is as the Honourable Member said the quality has gone down. Will Government take some steps in order to get this wood impregnated and have the quality improved?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think I explained the Government's position on this subject in a reply I gave to the Honourable Member yesterday. We are looking into the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a black-market even in matches?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware, but it is quite conceivable.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is he aware further that one box of matches is being sold at 8 to 12 annas in the city?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is scandalous.

(No reply)

PUBLICATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF TARIFF BOARD

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether Government propose to publish in full all the 14 reports and recommendations submitted by the Tariff Board before passing final orders on them?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No, Sir. The publication of Tariff Board's reports in advance of the announcement of Government's decisions thereon may lead to the encouragement of speculative activities in anticipation of action to be taken by Government.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Member if before taking decision the Government will place the views of the Tariff Board in particular matters before the Standing Committee which advises him?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: What the Government propose doing is this. There are two stages at which they will invite public criticism. At the time when the Tariff Board is making enquiries, they consult both the manufacturers and the consumers about the nature of protection or subsidy to be given to some industries, and secondly, after Government take the decision and before they introduce legislation for the purpose of granting protection or subsidy Government propose to consult public on the point.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Are Government prepared to consult the industries as well?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The industry concerned has got full opportunity of placing its case before the Tariff Board when the enquiry is held.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I ask the Honourable Member to inform the House whether Government will consult the Standing Committee on this Department with regard to any particular recommendation of the Tariff Board before they come to final decisions?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Standing Committee, as the Honourable Member is aware, meets about twice a year and we cannot keep the recommendations of the Tariff Board pending till the meetings of the Standing Committee are held, as by doing so, we will be defeating the very object of giving protection to industries which stand in need of protection. If at the time when a meeting of the Standing Committee is called, certain recommendations are pending, we will consider the suggestion of placing such recommendations before them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any rule which the Standing Committee should meet only twice a year? Is it not possible for the Government to hold the meetings of the Standing Committee as often as the necessity arises?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It is difficult to call the meeting every time because you may be aware that over 100 applications have been made to Government for protection and the policy of Government is not to keep the matter hanging. As soon as a report is received, it is examined by the Department and as soon as the departmental examination is over, Government reach a decision and it is not always practicable to consult the Standing Committee. But if a meeting of the Standing Committee is called and at that time certain matters are pending decision before the Government, Government will consider the advisability of placing these matters before the Committee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Government also consider the desirability of placing any negative decisions they may come to before the House in order to give the House an opportunity to consider the recommendations of the Tariff Board?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is a matter which the Honourable Member can raise by questions.

ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* THE SUPPLY OF ASSEMBLY AGENDA ETC TO MEMBERS ON ACCOUNT OF THE IMPOSITION OF CURFEW ORDER IN DELHI

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that on account of the imposition of curfew order in the city of Delhi, the members of the menial staff, most of whom live in the affected area had to leave office yesterday before dusk. It was, therefore, not possible to circulate the supplementary agenda for to-day as well as certain other papers to Honourable Members at their residences last night. I may add that if the situation does not improve the papers instead of being circulated to Members at their residences will be supplied to them in the chamber, as far as practicable.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) When will the papers be circulated?

Mr. President: During the course of the day.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO HEJAZ.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations) Sir, I beg to move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one Muslim member to serve on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz vice Sir Hassan Suhrawardy deceased, for the unexpired portion of the life of the Committee constituted on the 1st April, 1944 and due to expire on the 31st March, 1947."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one Muslim member to serve on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz vice Sir Hassan Suhrawardy deceased, for the unexpired portion of the life of the Committee constituted on the 1st April, 1944 and due to expire on the 31st March, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote of one Muslim member to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz, the programme of dates will be as follows

1. Nominations to be filed in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 13th November
2. Election, if necessary, will be held on Friday, the 15th November in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES (TEMPORARY POWERS) BILL—concluded

Mr. President: The House will now proceed to further consideration of the motion moved by the Honourable Dr. John Matthai, namely

"That the Bill to provide for the continuance during a limited period of powers to control the production supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain commodities, as amended, be passed."

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I do not want to continue my speech further, but I will simply ask a few questions, and I would request the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies to reply to them when he gets up for his final speech.

My first question is this The Honourable Member himself is anxious to lower the price level of articles, but will not the method he has adopted in this particular Bill raise the prices instead of lowering them? We know that the prices can only be lowered by competition in the trade, and what creates an enemy of the trade is monopoly, hoarding and combines, and it is this decision which he is now introducing in this particular Bill

My second question is this There has been a good deal of complaints about corruption of officials which has never in the past, since the time when Queen Victoria took charge of Indian Administration in 1858, been on such a large scale as it is at present This is due to the fact that Government has exposed its officials to great temptations Their fixed purchasing power is lowered and the temptation is increased Has the honourable gentleman done anything to reduce the temptation?

My third question is that all the supporters of my honourable friend to-day in the Assembly have been vigorously opposing the introduction of control through the period of four or five years Now they are asked by vote to put it on the Statute Book We will no doubt drink the cup but it will be Socrates cup Still we will drink it cheerfully

My fourth point is that the difficulty of the stockists is there The stockists really raise the price level They are a source of great nuisance In spite of the fact that a permit is given to them, they refuse to supply, and raise the question that the article is not there, and they sell to those persons to whom it is convenient to sell for one reason or other Will he now take steps to abolish these intermediaries both in iron and steel as well as in the textile trades? These intermediaries are a source of great trouble to everyone.

My fifth question is this Isn't it a fact that in the case of the cotton quota, at least in the United Provinces the big manufacturers who use cotton as their raw material have taken up the entire quota The result is that the smaller industries are altogether starved So when the quota is given in the manner dependent on the Government, then the men who always secure the deal are the persons who are very rich and who can afford to approach the Government and secure the quota I know in the case of the United Provinces the quota has been exhausted and taken up by a few manufacturers of cotton and the poorer people who really carry on the cotton industries and the smaller trades have nothing left

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadian Rural) I would like to ask the Honourable Member why mica has been included in clause 2 Mica is an article of export Why should we not be allowed to export it freely to other countries?

As regards the Act itself, I would like to make three or four suggestions Sanction under Section 1 can be given under Clause 11 by any public servant for prosecution. This is a very important matter. I would urge upon the Honourable Member to issue instructions that a person not below the rank of a District or First Class Magistrate should be empowered to give sanction

Then as regards the summary proceedings for which provision is made in clause 12 to try offences summarily It has no doubt been copied from the

[**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**] previous Ordinance or rules made under the Defence of India Rules. But this may not be necessary in peace time. Except in exceptional cases, summary proceedings should not be allowed. Those instructions may kindly be sent by the Department.

Thirdly, in various cases in which some of us have had to appear, we have not been able to find the copies of the latest rules and orders, and at the time of the prosecution of a man, the judge did not have a copy of the orders which the accused was supposed to have contravened. The various prohibitions and injunctions have not been made available to the public and without knowledge of these they have been charged with various offences. The Bill says the Gazette notification is enough. But various other orders are also issued and they must be made public from time to time.

Lastly, the Honourable Member is fully aware that this Bill which is a short one embodies 27 other orders, each one of which is a Statute by itself. These orders have got extensive operation and value. I do not know whether the Honourable Member himself has had sufficient time and opportunity to look into every one of these orders and as to how they have been worked during the war and after the war. A number of these orders went up to the High Courts and the Courts suggested modification in them. I would urge the Honourable Member to review these matters and if necessary create small committees of this House to sit with him in respect of every one of these orders, with respect to future orders. He may kindly place them before his own departmental committees or small sub-committees of this House to find out whether those orders are oppressive or harsh.

These are the suggestions I place before the Honourable Member, because this measure is a copy of the Ordinance which itself is a copy of the rules framed under the Defence of India Rules and other rules, to which we were not a party. I am not condemning the authority of the sponsor of this Bill. Now that war conditions are over let us be a little more careful and not allow this Act and the rules to be oppressive to the general public.

Mr. President: I might just remind the Honourable Members of the limitations of this debate. This is the third reading and the debate should be restricted only to the amendments and the alterations made during the consideration stage. Further I find the same thing is being repeated by Member after Member. I was not present in the House yesterday from 4 to 5 O'clock in the evening. But it appears the discussion is again going to be repeated. I should warn Members against this kind of repetition. If I find it so, I do not propose to allow it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: At the third reading we can throw out the Bill.

Mr. President: That is present to my mind.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: These are all the implications. Whether they have been touched in the second reading or not, I can still appeal to the House to throw out the Bill. Of course, I am not going to do that!

Mr. President: That is exactly the point, if a Member wants to oppose the Bill and vote against it. But Members who wish to support the Bill should not again repeat arguments by a further speech.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We are not opposing. But we must have our say.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural). The scope of discussion must be the same whether a person opposes it or not.

Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadan). I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to Clause 11 of this Bill and ask whether the words "public servant" includes a police officer. In the past

it has been interpreted that a charge sheet of a police officer is also a complaint so far as these clauses are concerned. This point ought to be made clear. The whole object of the Defence of India Rules was to take these cases out of the jurisdiction of the ordinary police. But it has been interpreted in the past that this 'report in writing' includes the charge sheet of the police.

Mr. President: What clause is he referring to?

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Clause 11.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) I do not feel inclined to support this Bill. I am not generally opposed to such controls but the way in which these controls have been working in this country, does not recommend a Bill like this for the acceptance of this House. I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar was right when he said that the time has come when the Government should review with the help of a few scientists, administrators, as well as economists, the way in which the various controls that had been instituted under the former Government had worked. It is more than a year since the war was over and I do not know why Government have not taken care to study the working of the Act and see that they are advised properly. Very recently the predecessor of my Honourable friend, Dr. John Matthai, and one of my leaders, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, had expressed the view in a conference that he was personally in favour of removing some of these controls, especially those very important controls on textiles. There were so many criticisms of this view and I was wondering who was right among these two parties. The then Honourable Member on one side or the business people who were clamouring for these controls. Generally speaking we find in any country, even so in this country, business people are opposed to these controls but extraordinarily enough I find a number of businessmen coming forward as champions of these controls and I begin to wonder whom these controls were benefiting. It must be that these businessmen were being benefited by the controls. Has my Honourable friend Dr. John Matthai given sufficient care and study to this particular subject after Mr. Rajagopalachari had made his speech and before he gave his consent to this proposition of moving this Bill in this House? I know for a fact in actual practice in our villages these controls are being condemned by every body. It is true that controls are needed and they are being tolerated in England too. But what was the purpose behind the controls? To achieve equitable distribution of scarce goods as between different sections of the people in order that the poorer classes may be assured of their due share of the goods and in order that the rich people who have plenty of loose cash might not be able to run away with all the goods. What is happening in this country. The rich man can get whatever he likes in spite of these controls and in whatever quantities he likes. He has no value for money and there are people who have value for money and these are the black marketeers and police officials and various others who are supposed to administer these controls. They take away the money from these rich people for whom money has no value at all and give them all the goods that they want. Who suffers in the bargain? It is the poor people. Let us go into our villages and you will find that there is terrible scarcity. Go to a town you will find that every thing is to be found in abundance and the rich people in those towns are able to have all that they want but not the poor people. Therefore the primary object of these controls has been and is being defeated today. Therefore it is the duty of my Honourable friend to institute immediately an enquiry into this matter and see that the results thereof are obtained as soon as possible and see also that the controls to be continued under this Bill are either stopped or amended or properly administered, so that the primary object with which these controls are to be continued is really enforced and achieved.

Then there is the question of distribution between areas and areas. Take kerosene, for example, or match boxes. What is the manner in which these

[Prof N G Ranga]
 things are distributed between urban and rural areas? The other day the question of the distribution of sugar was raised and also the question of jaggery and gut. And we were told that those were matters of provincial concern. It is in this way that the ordinary people are being dismissed or tossed from pillar to post, between provincial government and the Central Government. The provincial governments already operate under this Act in regard to all these controls. The rural people have been suffering very badly. I have myself been a witness to the way in which rural people have been suffering. I am a rural man myself and I live in the village unlike many of my Honourable friends here and I know how it has become almost impossible for our villagers to go to a town and get their quota of kerosene or matches. Even in this regard an enquiry is most necessary.

Then there is the question of fighting the black marketeer. Under the instructions of Mahatma Gandhi a very large number of our Congress people have been trying to fight these black marketeers. I know for a fact that there are black marketeers in every group of people. I know that even within the Congress fold there are a number of people who are only four-anna members in name but who are carrying on black marketing. So also in the Muslim League and in every political organisation. Our duty is to fight them but how to fight them that is the most important consideration. The police are not our allies in fighting the black marketeers. So we have to fight the police also if we want to put down the black markets. There were cases where I was told that whenever our people tried to get hold of black marketeers redhanded, cases were instituted against these very same social workers who were catching the black marketeers by the very same policemen who were taking bribes from the black marketeers.

Then there are the revenue officials who had come to be appointed to various positions under these controls. In the Madras Presidency I was told that in the 25 districts where there used to be 75 Deputy Collectors there are today more than 500 Deputy Collectors. All sorts of temporary and probationary tahsildars, unconfirmed tahsildars and raw deputy tahsildars have all been promoted as Deputy Collectors over night and all these people have been entrusted with these very responsible positions with the result that every one of them within a year has come to make tens of thousands of rupees as black marketing profits. I know of a head constable who made 10,000 in one year. There was a tahsildar who made Rs. 65,000 in one year.

Then again how is it that while during the war our weavers in South India were able to get yarn enough to employ them for 20 days in a month, after the war they have come to be supplied with yarn which will give them only seven days work and for three weeks in the month they are obliged to be unemployed. What has happened after the war was over? It was not necessary for the Textile Department and its committees and officers to continue to supply cloth to the troops. Therefore all that supply should be available to the people as additional supply. But is that so? There must be somewhere some hole, somebody is burrowing into it and stealing the whole lot. This stuff may or may not be in circulation, but if it is it goes for the use only of the rich people. If it is not, I do not know what is happening to all that is being produced in our country.

The other day at question time it was said that there were cases where on the removal of these controls prices had gone up. But there are also cases where on the institution of these controls prices had gone up too. How do they fix these prices? I am glad that my Honourable friend Dr. John Matthai happens to be a distinguished economist. Therefore I would like him to apply his knowledge of the science of economics to this matter rather than his knowledge of administration. What is the manner in which these prices are fixed? Is it a fact that these prices are fixed at the cost price of the marginal firm or the firm which has got to be kept going, however inefficient, 16

may be, merely because we are so much short of supply and therefore this supply also is needed? If that is so, then immediately it happens that all other firms above this margin get a windfall of profit. Who benefits thereby? Not the consumer, not certainly the poor consumer, but only these fortunate producers above the marginal firm. Is it not necessary that some system should be instituted in regard to these price controls whereby it would be possible for the Honourable Member and the government to see that it is not the cost price at which the marginal firm is producing but the cost price of a normal firm of normal standards of efficiency should be taken into consideration, and if need be, all the other firms below this particular normal standard may be subsidised to some extent in order that they may keep going and might be enabled to go on producing and adding to our total surplus?

The other point has already been referred to—that is clause 11. It only means this, that there is a possibility for *zulum* by these policemen and various other officers—my Honourable friend suggests other than policemen—to be employed against the public. There has been any amount of *zulum*. Unfortunately it is on the wrong side, if this *zulum* had been used against these real black marketeers, it would have been something, but very often that is not the case. It is used against those people who are obliged to go and purchase these things in spite of the present short supplies and in spite of the high prices charged by these black marketeers and taking the stuff to their own homes. Whom are we to punish? The consumer? I think it was in this House sometime ago, somebody stated that every one has got to purchase these things whether one likes it or not. Every one necessarily becomes consciously or unconsciously, an abettor of this black marketing. Why? Because you have got to have these things. You cannot very well, if you are a smoker, get on without matches, the other day—and that was how I came to know of this particular piece of news which I gave to the Honourable Member this morning—I had a friend who wanted a match box, he wanted to purchase it but he was made to pay 12 annas for a small match box. Am I to condemn him? I may condemn him because he could afford to wait for a little longer. But the villager goes to town. He can spare only one day and not more within a month or couple of months,—I cannot condemn him merely because he is pressed for time and therefore he pays the black market price and purchases his cloth or jaggery or even his tobacco or matches or any of these things, which are under controlled prices. Therefore it is necessary for us to take care to see that these officers do not use their *zulum* against these consumers but against those who actually sell these things. It is also necessary to see that these supplies are apportioned properly so that each one has his share of his own supply, however small it may be, and he should not get more than that. If he gets more than that, he must be caught hold of.

There is only one other point I wish to make and that is this—in regard to these false statements—clause 10 whose false statements do you wish to punish? We want to make statements against various merchants and various officers whom we believe to be guilty in this wretched trade of black marketing. After all we cannot have completely authentic information in our possession.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Statements required of individual merchants and others—statistics.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I would like my Honourable friend to say that we would not come within the mischief of this particular clause.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The general public giving information would not come.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I want an assurance anyhow from the Honourable Member that the general public which used to give information about any one who is dealing in this black market—either a merchant or any one of

[Prof N G Ranga]

these rich people who take too much quantities for themselves, or the officers themselves—will not come within the mischief of this clause 10.

Mr. President: The language seems to be very clear it refers to a person who is giving information when required by any order

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If that is the explanation I am satisfied. It is for these reasons that I want the Honourable Member to bestow much greater care than what we are given to understand, and see that as soon as possible supplies are increased, so that either the controls will not become necessary, or the administration and controls can be carried on with much less trouble to the public than is the case at present.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put

Mr. President: The question is

"That the question be now put"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Dr John Mattha: (Member for Industries and Supplies)
Sir, I do not wish to speak at this stage, because most of the general points that were raised this morning are already covered by the remarks I made yesterday. As for the practical suggestions which have been made regarding the moderation of the severity of the executive orders which may be issued, I will give the matter my most careful consideration.

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be amended by passing"

The motion was adopted

FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATION BILL

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir I move

"That the Bill to regulate certain payments, dealings in foreign exchange and securities and the import and export of currency and bullion, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, Mr. K. G. Anbesagkar, Mr. H. D. Casley, Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Khwaja Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson, Mr. P. J. Griffiths, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Mr. Manu Sekhedar, Mr. P. B. Gole, Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar, Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, this Bill establishes a system whereby the foreign exchange transactions and connected payments may be regulated. At present the legal basis of foreign exchange control is contained in certain of the financial provisions of the Defence of India Rules which have been incorporated in the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance. The Ordinance is due to expire on the 31st March 1947, and it is therefore necessary, if control over foreign exchange transactions is to be continued, for the required authority to be incorporated in a legislative measure. The Government have given very careful consideration to this matter and they have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to continue exercising control over foreign exchange transactions, not only in the interests of India but to ensure that the best use is made of our foreign exchange resources in implementing our programme of industrialisation and development of the country. Sir, apart from this, it is also necessary in virtue of our position as a member of the International Monetary Fund to promote exchange stability and to maintain orderly exchange arrangements. Before 1939 no exchange control existed in India. It was in September 1939 that the control was introduced as a war measure, in order to mobilise the foreign exchange resources of the country and to restrict the expenditure of foreign currencies. The object of this control was to enable us to make the fullest use of all available supplies for purposes directly connected with the prosecution of the war. When exchange control was introduced as a war measure it was accepted as a necessary restriction but prior to that date any

proposals for the introduction of such a system would have been strongly resisted, as likely to cause great interference with normal trade and business and the freedom of the individual, but the special circumstances that existed because of the war made the position quite different and there was not that opposition to this proposition which might have been otherwise. Experience of exchange control properly administered during the past few years has led to a general appreciation of the fact that basically the system is sound. It is highly illogical that a country should not attach the same importance to balancing its overseas payments as balancing its internal revenue and expenditure. For many years a balanced budget has been the criterion of sound internal finance. Yet for long it was considered that any attempt to take preventive action, to forestall or adjust an adverse balance of overseas payments was an unwarranted interference with the rights of foreign merchants and financiers, so that the correction of any disequilibrium that might arise in a country's balance of payments had to be left to economic forces. While they achieve their purpose it was at a heavy cost to the inhabitants of the country in the form of deflation and unemployment and decline in prices. The right of a country to regulate its external balance of payments has now been recognised but this important feature of exchange control was so long obscured, because of the abuse of the system by countries such as Germany and Japan in the years between the two wars. It is obvious and very clear that had a system of exchange control been in existence in France and the United Kingdom during those years, so that the movement of short term capital between London, Paris and New York was subject to regulation, the large scale transfers of hot money for reasons of security with their disastrous repercussions on the stability of the exchanges would have been avoided. One country's adverse balance of payment would not have resulted in a large deficit necessitating devaluation by the weight of these capital transfers and its foreign exchange reserves would not have had to be dissipated in providing facilities for this idle money to fly into what its owners considered a safer currency.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the International Monetary Fund. Two of the principle objectives of the International Monetary Fund of which India has now become and will continue to remain one of the most important members in virtue of her large overseas trade are the promotion of exchange stability and the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions which hamper the growth of world trade. It is the restrictions which hamper the world trade that are to be removed by members of the fund while restrictions on movements of capital are permitted because such restrictions may in fact serve to promote exchange stability. The articles of agreement specifically prohibit the imposition by members of restrictions on the making of payments for what are described as current transactions. These are defined in Article 19 and cover trade payments, income on investments and family remittances. A member is not prohibited from giving facilities for transfers of capital and there is nothing to prevent him allowing such transfers as long as he can meet them out of his own favourable balance of payments. The system of exchange control authorised by the Fund therefore is one that is intended to prevent and control those unrestricted movements of capital which did so much to disrupt the exchange stability of the leading countries during the years between the two wars while at the same time the blocking of payments for current transactions is expressly prohibited thereby eliminating the evils of the exchange control system as developed by Germany and Japan.

The reasons for the introduction of this legislation have been given at very great length in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and every clause of the Bill has been examined and the reasons and arguments for inclusion of different clauses have been given but with your permission I would like to refer to some of the important clauses in the Bill. As Honourable Members would notice, clause 3 empowers the Reserve Bank to issue licences to deal in foreign exchange. Under the present system of exchange control, certain scheduled banks are licensed to deal in foreign exchange and the general public conduct

[Mr Liaquat Ali Khan]

all their transactions in foreign exchange through their medium. These authorised dealers are permitted to buy and sell foreign currencies and approve payments to non-residents under conditions laid down by the Reserve Bank to whom all transactions are reported or referred. The arrangement enables the Reserve Bank to delegate authority to bankers experienced in foreign exchange to make normal trade payments under certain conditions without prior reference to them. By these means facilities will be provided and are provided for the mercantile community and the general public to make payments in foreign currencies arising out of *bona fide* business transactions without the delays inherent in a centralised system, while, at the same time, the Reserve Bank is able to exercise a general superintendence over all foreign exchange transactions and is kept fully informed of receipts and expenditure of foreign currencies and the balance of payments position of the country.

Now, Sir, I come to clause 4. It provides that foreign exchange transactions in British India may only be entered into with authorised dealers in foreign exchange. As the conditions under which authorised dealers

1 P. M. may sell exchange are laid down by the Reserve Bank, this ensures that no remittances of foreign currency will take place except for approved purposes and thus it makes the control complete. Incidentally, in this clause is a provision giving the Reserve Bank the right to fix exchange rates. This is necessary to enable us to comply with the rules of the International Monetary Fund which lay down that transactions in the currencies of other members may only take place within certain fixed limits.

The following clause, clause 5, deals with restrictions on payments, and is based on the present Defence of India Rule 92A with certain modifications and additions and places restrictions on payments to, for or on behalf of, persons resident outside India. Such payments are the counterpart of purchases and sales of rupees against foreign currencies in foreign centres. The same limitations have to be placed on payments of this type as on actual remittances of foreign currencies as otherwise, persons who are refused permission to purchase foreign exchange in India will evade the restriction by selling their rupees in a foreign market.

In clause 6 provision is made for payment to blocked accounts on terms similar to those in Rule 92B. A system of blocked account is necessary to enable the Reserve Bank to control payments of a capital nature due to non-residence for which permission for conversion into foreign exchange has been refused.

Now, Sir, I would next like to say something about clauses 9 and 16 in the Bill. Under these clauses the Central Government has taken powers to issue orders to vest private holdings of foreign exchange and securities. I hope Honourable Members will note that these clauses do not prohibit private persons from holding foreign currencies and securities but they give the Central Government powers to issue orders to require such holdings to be surrendered if it is deemed necessary for the purpose of strengthening its financial position. At the present time the only order requiring the surrender of foreign currency is that in respect of U.S. dollars, but it may be necessary in future in order to prevent the growth of illegal markets in foreign currencies and to mobilise the foreign exchange resources of the country to require the surrender of private holdings of other currencies in addition. In the United Kingdom, it may be noted, not only the U.S. dollars but all foreign currencies in which the Bank of England deals have to be surrendered.

The next clause which needs mention is clause 18. It relates to transactions in securities and is considerably wider in scope than the corresponding security measures in Defence of India Rules. The restrictions imposed thereunder are intended to prevent transfers of funds from India of a capital nature taking place through the medium of transfers of rupee securities against payment in foreign currency. It is also useful as a means of recording and regulating foreign investment in India.

Clause 14 gives power to the Central Government to require all bearer securities to be deposited in authorised depositories. It is a new measure and is intended to prevent transfers on capital account evading the control imposed by the previous clause. The transfer of bearer securities is by hand. No transfer deed is completed nor, indeed, any indication is given as to who is the transferee. The requirement that bearer securities must be deposited has the effect of removing the bearer character of bearer securities as the depository is responsible for seeing that transfers to non-residents do not take place except in accordance with the rules laid down. Sir, the volume of bearer securities in India is not at present large enough to necessitate the issue of orders under this clause. But it is thought advisable for Government to have these powers in reserve in case a market in bearer securities should grow up in this country which might be used to evade our restrictions on transfers of capital. Similar measures regarding the deposit of bearer securities are contemplated in the United Kingdom and other European countries where the existence of facilities for illegal transfers of capital through the medium of bearer bonds has become a serious exchange problem.

The next clause is 15, which gives powers to the Government to prohibit the issue of bearer securities. This power, I may assure the Honourable Members, could only be availed of should it be found that the issue of bearer securities was having undesirable effects in the country.

Now, Sir, there is another clause on which I would also like to commend and that is clause 19. It gives the Central Government the right to call for information. Under our obligations to the International Monetary Fund we are required to provide that institution with a considerable volume of information in respect of holdings of foreign exchange by persons other than banks, of foreign investment in India and of Indian investment abroad for which particulars can only be obtained by inquiries from banks, business houses and individuals. The clause will give the Government the necessary legal powers to call for this information. In addition, information regarding the transactions of persons or firms in India with their foreign agents or branches may be required in order to ascertain that irregular dealings in foreign exchange and illegal transfers are not taking place through book entries and accounting practices. In view of the difficulty of detecting such illegal transactions it has been considered necessary to provide for powers of search and the seizing of account books should there be reasonable grounds for suspecting that infringements of the Act are taking place. Now, Sir, as regards other clauses, they do not really require any special mention. The reasons for their inclusion in the Bill have been stated in the Bill itself. While commending the Bill to Honourable Members for their consideration, I would impress upon them the desirability and the necessity of having control over foreign exchange and foreign currency. We must by every means control all the economic factors which are for the benefit and for the good of our country. I believe that control of foreign exchange and foreign currency is one of the important factors in the economic life of India. I have made this motion for reference of this Bill to the Select Committee and I hope that the House will accept this motion and accept the principle that it is necessary for India to exercise control over foreign exchange and foreign currency. Sir, I commend this Bill for the consideration of this House.

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That the Bill to regulate certain payments, dealings in foreign exchange and securities and the import and export of currency and bullion, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, Mr. K. G. Ambegakar, Mr. H. D. Cayley, Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson, Mr. P. J. Griffiths, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. P. B. Gole, Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddier, Sri D. P. Karmarkar, Sri Satya Narayan Sinha and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants, Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce). Sir, after the uncontrolled speeches on controls, I shall try to be as

[Mr. Manu Subedar] brief as possible, particularly because I consider the Bill is a very well drafted document and also because the Honourable Member in moving it has made a very lucid and clear statement and also because the Bill is being sent to the Select Committee where any little points which may be left over or which might want co-ordination will be attended to.

Mr. President: The House will now adjourn for Lunch. The Honourable Member can resume his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, **Mr. President** (the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, the first contract that India had, the first experience of exchange control came, as the Honourable Finance Minister said, in 1939. It was in respect of dollars, and I well remember that I was compelled to sell off some of my dollar securities at a loss because Government said they wanted dollars. This was exercised I maintain, in the interest of the United Kingdom, and it is high time that we learnt to exercise exchange control in the interests of India. And I therefore welcome this measure. This measure has become necessary because of the membership of the International Fund who will not only ask for information which would have to be supplied to them but who have so provided that in case Indian purchases abroad exceed Indian sales abroad, the method of settlement would be such that except a relief for a short time we may have to find gold or dollars to settle them. In other words, unless we looked out from now on, very carefully at the trade balances and the balances of payments, we would be in a very difficult position. Sir, owing to famine, owing to the desire to purchase enormous quantities of capital equipments abroad, both for Government departments and for private industry, and also owing to the desire of every small trader to order whatever he can, a position has been created now of some anxiety for India with regard to its balance of trade during the next three or four years. It is during this period that we shall have to husband our resources and to go very carefully in order to see that such exchange as is available is used for essential articles, for those articles which this country needs first and which are of some importance. For example, the hipsticks referred to by my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar, who keeps observing the hipsticks everywhere would have to be checked. Sir the present position is that every shopkeeper in this country has made enormous money like what he had never seen before, he has got money in the bank and his shop is empty. He is therefore running amuck, and I want to draw the attention of Government to the fact that the reckless purchase of things abroad might actually result in a glut of commodities in this country in certain directions and in the total it might make the position very embarrassing for Government. These powers are not therefore taken one day too soon. Though they exist in the Ordinances, legislative sanction for them would be proper, and I trust Government will use these powers with all the moral authority which this legislature can give them.

Another reason for the need of these powers was that while the dollar and hard currency were under control under the Ordinances there was no such control with regard to sterling. I drew the attention of the House the other day—as far as such attention can be drawn in a short question—to the fact that this Government had no information with regard to large capital payments and movements which were taking place. Britishers had sold, and some notorious big cases were reported, they had sold big capital assets for crores of rupees to people in this country. These crores of rupees which were paid to them have, I maintain, been transferred through the normal operation of the exchange banks and against current trade. In other words, the difference between current and capital movement is one which has been frequently emphasised and which finds a definite place in the working of the Fund. Such

distinction must therefore find a place in the functioning of our central institution. I inquired about this and there was no information as to who bought how much sterling and for what purposes, and whether it was all necessary. Speculative purchase of sterling has been going on for some time, as soon as the Finance Minister declared that something would have to be done about the gold put of exchange. Even here, though I was assured that the Reserve Bank generally watches out and does give instructions to exchange banks not to sell on speculative account, in practice I know it is done daily and that on the plea that they are merely hedging against future transactions, many people have been able to have dealings in sterling.

Now, Sir, there was no information with this Government with regard to the assets of foreigners in this country. This was another great lacuna. As the Honourable Industries and Supplies Minister said the other day the previous Government were not concerned with these things, they were only concerned with the maintenance of law and order. But a change has come not only in this country but all over the world. Under this change every Government is compelled by force of circumstances and by the very necessities of the case to keep an account of what is going on. If it did not do so it would be at its own peril, and there would be serious difficulty. It is true that these new institutions which have been set up in the international field may to some extent enable people to tide over a temporary difficulty, but these institutions cannot in my opinion possibly help any Government which neglected a full account of what the activities of other people are in this country, and in particular a full periodical revised statement of what the assets of other people are. We in this country are very much interested in these assets in connection with the settlement of the largest possible question in volume of money which any country was called upon to settle at any time in a single sitting—the sterling balances.

Now, Sir, this Bill is welcome because it is a sign that India is going to manage her own affairs from India and no longer from London. The world situation has itself compelled this position, and it is only right that Government should arm themselves with powers which they could use here without any reference to any third party and on all occasions for the welfare and in the interest of the people of this country. Sir, the war has left many bad legacies from which we are suffering and I fear we shall suffer for the next few years, but in so far as the exchange control is a legacy of the war I must say that it is a very good legacy, that it was necessary and it has come at the proper time, and India will have now in her armory powers with which she will be able to protect the interests of the people of this country. Sir, it is frequently said in other fields that India has no aggressive designs on anybody, I say in the field of finance the position is the same, but we were not able at all times to safeguard the interests of our own nationals. And let me give an illustration. It was in 1937 and 1938 that Japan kept on purchasing enormous amounts of cotton from this country. The moneys which were payable and which became due to the sellers of this cotton were blocked by Japan. The purchasers said they could not remit the money as their Government had asked them not to remit and they claimed that it was a *forced majeure* and that they were not responsible. While the Japanese purchasers of cotton were repudiating or holding back the funds which were due to Indians from whom they had purchased the cotton, the Japanese agents were going on purchasing galore in this country. It was then that I raised this point on the floor of this House in the form of questions which was the only remedy open to us. I raised this point on the floor of this House and even the then Government was induced by me to take a strong line and to threaten that if the position was not put right they will block every Japanese rupee which may be in this country, collect all the Japanese assets towards the payment of the blocked money belonging to Indians. This would not have happened if the Government at that time had the powers which are now being taken in this manner. It is true, he all powers these powers could be abused as they certainly were abused in Germany. What Germany did was it borrowed right and left—long term credit—short term credit—and then comfortably and quietly said, "We are unable to pay you the moneys, but you come to Germany use the Marks which are blocked here

[Mr. Manu Subedar] and spend them in Germany if you like, we will not permit you to take away these assets elsewhere ! In other words, the supreme need of the German Empire at that time was that they should not pay anybody anything, and as a matter of fact they got away with it. As I say these are very wide powers which may be abused, but they are necessary in the autonomy of every nation and every country, and since India is marching towards her own freedom this I regard as one of the most important fulfilments and symptoms of that march.

Now, Sir, in this connection let me mention one more point. Nationalization has been a very pet theme in this House. There have been suggestions for the nationalization of land, of coal, of jute, of textile, of civil aviation, and may be many other items which I am omitting. But may I bring to the notice of this House generally, and more particularly to those friends who are very fond of the principle of nationalization, that I would give absolutely the first place to the nationalization of the Reserve Bank. In this case we would be following a very good example which has been already followed in the United Kingdom. In other countries private Banks were never given the powers which this particular institution enjoys. As a matter of fact the whole of this Bill places in the hands of the Reserve Bank much wider powers than it has had hitherto, but it is a question—I will not detain the House long on this issue because it does not directly arise out of it—as to whether holders of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent paper—one particular set of men who hold $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent paper guaranteed by Government—have any special significance or importance or intelligence to be entrusted with the big task of central banking and all the wide and extensive powers which are enjoyed under it. Sir when the Reserve Bank of India Bill was passed, it was Sir George Schuster who told this House that it was a private institution because in the case of need, Government cannot stampede it. If Government owned this institution, Government could use the machinery for financing themselves to any extent and in order to safeguard this they had put this as a private institution so that there is a brake on Government in case Government wanted to abuse the machinery of currency. But in spite of this assurance given by a British Finance Member in this House, has that assurance been kept? Has not the machinery of the Reserve Bank been abused for excessive note issue and for the purchase galore of commodities and services in this country to the very great privation of the population of this country? And has not that conduct left us one of the biggest problems which this country has to face? Therefore, I say that there is no sanctity with regard to some holders of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent papers or other holders of Government notes and why one particular set should be picked out and entrusted with all these enormous powers I have never been able to understand. I commend this idea of the nationalization of the Reserve Bank to this House and through the Members of this House to the country.

This Bill raises many other questions on which I do not wish to take up the time of the House, but in spite of the fact, as I said before, that it is a very carefully drafted document, there are loopholes some of which I shall point out later in the Select Committee. But there are one or two which I would like to mention now. There may be loopholes such as the private barter between two individuals one sitting here and one sitting abroad, there may be loopholes with regard to trusteeship. In one direction this is provided, but I will point out several directions in which the loopholes still remain. There may be loopholes with regard to partnership which may be declared, may be undeclared, may be registered, may be unregistered. And there are other loopholes such as private trading in bullion. This is one of the points which I commend to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member. In the Central Banking Committee's minority report, I had made it very explicit that in the interest of this country it was important that the right to import gold should be concentrated in the hands of the Central Banking Authority. Sir, normally India is an importer of gold. All the gold which is coming in and is awaiting distribution would be in the hands of the Central Authority and in the event of any emergency they could promptly stop the sale of gold in this country and they

would have a certain amount left in their hands. I find in this Bill there is a provision permitting and recognizing private trading in gold. It is this private trading in gold which is going to give the Honourable the Finance Member and the Reserve Bank authorities a big headache in future because so long as you permit this private trading in gold transactions will take place in arbitrage and transmission of funds from one place to the other could not be done with greater facility than through the earmarking of gold at this end or at the other end against payments which may be made. This is one of the loopholes which I want the Select Committee to consider very carefully.

Then, Sir, there is another small point which I would like to mention, and that is in Section 1 (2). This Bill does not apply and technically this Legislature has indeed no power to make law for territories in India which are part of the economic system of India but which are under the Indian States. This is a loophole which I regard as a very serious one and I would request the Government of India to promptly negotiate with the Indian States and to get their voluntary adherence to the laws and restrictions and controls which are involved therein. I would tell this House a case which came to my notice. It is an old case—about 12 years old—and therefore it does not hurt the parties concerned. An income of Rs 27 lakhs, which was made by certain parties in the United Kingdom and abroad, and an income which was taxable if it was brought into British India, was transferred directly to an Indian State and the income-tax on Rs 27 lakhs was lost to the Government of India by this dodge of pretending that there was a transfer to one of the inland States. Aeroplanes were not used in those days. How a transfer could take place without its coming into the operation of any of the other banks, passes, my understanding. Even the Imperial Bank branches which are located in the Indian States have got deposits and pay out interest of which the Government of India have no information, let alone use of this information for the purpose of tax collection. I think this is a loophole which ought to be done away with and which ought not to be permitted to continue if it can be brought about under the present situation by negotiation and a voluntary acceptance by the Princes of the purport and objective involved in this legislation, which is as much for their safety as it is for the safeguarding of the economy of British India.

This Bill I consider is very essential in the matter of planned economy, which is now the order of the day. Whatever some people may think with regard to freedom of the individual, I have very great respect for the views my honourable friend Mr Siddiqi mentioned yesterday. I would like all necessary evils, not only all controls, but all governments to be abolished if we can reach that simple Utopian condition in which there would be no regulation. But regulation is primarily in the interests of the community as a whole. Regulation which interferes with private rights is in the interests of the whole country, of the whole society, of all the masses, and therefore planned economy a word which was debated yesterday, is something which would arise out of this control itself. You cannot control exchanges properly unless you control trading. You cannot control trading properly unless you interfere with the amount of volume of goods which we shall sell abroad and purchase from abroad. If you have to distinguish what quantity and quality we shall purchase, by the time you do it and correlate it with your internal economy, you have a system of regulation which may be slightly in excess of what we are living in now, but which has become necessary in the changed situation in the world.

One last word the Honourable the Finance Member said that we are securing the fixity of exchange for future purposes. Now fixity of exchange is very desirable but it is not valuable in itself. It is well known, and the Honourable the Finance Member accepted the position, that we were surrendering certain authority and certain powers from our own hands in order to secure this fixity. I say there is a more dominant object to be considered, namely, the level of internal prices and the internal value of the rupee as compared with the external value of the rupee. Sir it is very easy to control the external value of the rupee in the way in which the Honourable the Finance Member

[Mr Manu Subedar]

proposes to do, but it is incumbent on him and on the whole Government to take up this issue as an urgent one—as to what can be done in order to check a further spiral of rise in prices and wages in this country. Unless it is done in that way, even the external control will not be easy. So long as prices in this country are high we shall be able to sell less and we shall be compelled to buy more. We shall be tempting everyone who has something to sell in the world and this is a situation which is none too healthy. I therefore commend this idea to the Honourable the Finance Member that he may as early as convenient go thoroughly into this and see by what means the inflation can be further checked, the spiral of prices and wages both going up may be brought under control and all those people with fixed incomes in this country may be relieved.

Sir, I beg to support the motion of the Honourable the Finance Member.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) I rise to move a small amendment in respect of the personnel of the Select Committee as proposed by the Honourable the Mover. I move—

“That the names of Prof N G Ranga and Captain Syed Abid Hussain be added to the names mentioned in the original motion.”

I hope this amendment is accepted by the House.

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

“That the names of Prof N G Ranga and Captain Syed Abid Hussain be added to the names mentioned in the original motion.”

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal European) In giving the general support of the European Group to the Honourable the Finance Member's reference of this Bill to a Select Committee, I think it is unnecessary for me to say on our behalf that the members of the House will realize that though this Bill is an enabling Bill, it does confer very wide sweeping and drastic powers upon Government and their agent, the Reserve Bank of India. I must confess that when I listened this morning to the Honourable the Finance Member moving the motion which is before the House, I was a little surprised to find him striking a note in which he seemed to lament the passing of the unregenerate system under which we lived in 1939 and to welcome in place of the very satisfactory system of world exchanges which we then had, the creation of the complicated, and I may say, dangerous machinery which this Bill will give to Government. None the less, we do as I say, in general terms, support the provisions of the Bill. Our support, Sir, is based on the assumption that whilst giving these comprehensive powers to Government and to the Reserve Bank of India, it is the intention of the administration to use those powers as little as possible to fetter the free movement of trade which must also mean fettering as little as possible the free movement and the free flow of money as between the countries. If, Sir, this principle is accepted, then much which is obscure and dark now in the clauses will no doubt become clear and any fears; or such fears as may be entertained by any section of the House, will in due course prove to be groundless. The Bill is a long Bill. It is highly technical in many of its aspects. It runs, Sir, as you have seen into 27 clauses, and I venture to suggest that if any or all of those 27 clauses were applied in their literal sense and with the full vigour with which apparently the Reserve Bank has the powers to apply them, they would have the effect of imposing upon India a wholly closed economy. I take it that whatever our views may be, none of us believe that India can live in an autarchical state of isolation. I take it that it is Government's intentions so far as the provisions of the Bill are concerned to keep them in reserve as much as possible, and to use them for purposes of emergency. If that is so, I would go one step further and beg leave to assume that it is the Government's intention to restore as quickly as possible and as conditions permit, the familiar facilities of multilateral world trade. My Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar has drawn upon his extensive experience of the past this afternoon and quoted cases which are undoubtedly an infringement of fair trade, and an infringement of the intention of the law. I put it to the House that, by and large,

the multilateral principles of trade which obtained until they had to be restricted and curtailed by the war—by and large they were intended and did operate for the benefit of the world as a whole and for India's benefit too. The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech this morning drew our attention to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, and he mentioned particularly India's obligations under the International Monetary Fund. He emphasised that the powers which it is now proposed to confer on the Reserve Bank were necessary in order to enable India to discharge fully and in every circumstance, her obligations to the Fund. I agree that this may be so. I agree that it is necessary for Governments to take special powers in order to make their membership of the Fund effective. The Fund exists fundamentally, of course not to protect us against our own excesses but to protect the nations against the excesses of one another. But what is the underlying intention of the Fund? We have had both in this session and in previous sessions a number of debates on India's membership of the Fund—whether she should join the Fund and subscribe to the Bretton Woods Agreement. We have ranged over a wide field of details but I suggest that as I understand it and as most people I believe, understand it the really fundamental permanent and underlying objects of the Fund are to free world trade from the restrictions, the fetters and the shackles which have been imposed upon it during the war years. And in freeing world trade, I venture to suggest also, India's trade will be freed from restrictive influences.

India has accepted the membership, the objectives and the spirit of the Fund and all that lies behind the formal agreement. If that is so—and I believe it is so—I take it that the House will assume that this Bill is really designed to meet the special circumstances of the transition period through which we and other countries of the world are now passing. I confess that one of the criticisms—a criticism as to broad principle—which I have to offer in respect of the Bill is that no time limit is set as to the period in which the Bank can operate these provisions. As the Bill stands at the present moment it is, of course, a purely enabling measure and the Bank might never call any one of the provisions into operation. As it stands at the present time they could also continue to enjoy these provisions in perpetuity. We have just concluded a debate on another set of controls—controls over essential supplies and commodities and the Government of India wisely, so I think, have set a limit to the time in which the controls can be operated at the discretion of the Executive. If those controls are to be renewed, Government have to come before this House again and ask for sanction and approval of their renewal. There is no such provision in this Bill which (I once again emphasise) gives very wide and sweeping and comprehensive powers to the Reserve Bank. Let me say by way of explanation and let me make it clear, that I make no criticism whatsoever of the Reserve Bank of India as such. If it is necessary (and I believe it is necessary) to confer these powers upon some agent of Government then I for one would sooner that they repose in the hands of the Reserve Bank which is in touch with the practical requirements of the business community and with the main economic trends of the country. I for one would sooner that they were entrusted to the Reserve Bank than they were given to some department of Government or to any agency which has not the same contact with the real needs of the country in respect to its international trade. But, Sir, if control over essential commodities could be limited to only one year I suggest that there is a case to go to the Select Committee for some defined period after which the Government should come back to the legislature for the renewal of authority to exercise the powers which they will in due course delegate to the Reserve Bank.

The Honourable the Finance Member this morning emphasised that the main underlying principle of the Bill was to enable India to make the best use of her foreign exchange resources in implementing her post-war plans. That is a very laudable objective. He also talked to us about the disequilibrium or dislocation which had existed in the exchange relationships of countries including this country before the war. I looked through this Bill

[Mr Geoffrey W. Tyson] in some detail. Whilst I am prepared to agree that its provisions may help India in the correction of any disequilibrium in her balance of payments (which is the phrase used) I cannot accept the argument that it will enable her to maintain her balance of payments in perpetuity. Also we have to remember that exchange control, which is designedly and intentionally restrictive, is an activity in which other nations can engage. If we embark upon a policy in India that is in any way impudent, it might result in more harm than good to the country.

My Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar in his speech a few months ago said that the controls such as were proposed should be used with the moral authority of this House. I agree, but I think it is equally important that they are used realistically and with prudence and with a eye to the practical requirements of the country.

The Honourable the Finance Member this morning dealt with some of the clauses in detail and he gave us an interesting and enlightening exposition of the meaning of many of them. Mr Subedar this afternoon has thrown more light on some of them and I do, on behalf of my group welcome Mr Subedar's statement, that just as India in the physical field has no aggressive intentions towards anybody else—so—and I think I am quoting him correctly—he said he has no aggressive financial designs on any country. (Mr Manu Subedar. Quite right.) We are glad in this Group to have an assurance of that kind coming from such an important quarter, and I believe that that assurance could be suitably underlined by the spokesman of the government in due course. We are glad of Mr Manu Subedar's assurance and we are glad to hear the restrained and temperate exposition of the intentions of this Bill which the Honourable Finance Member has given and we support its reference to Select Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Gandhi van Nellore Non-Muhammadan Bahali. Mr President I am rather surprised at the attitude displayed by my Honourable friend Mr Tyson. In his own country there are these controls already imposed and exercised and he ought to know that in almost all the European countries these controls have already been imposed and are being exercised. What is good for his own country and for his own continent certainly cannot be so very bad for our country. He wants the Finance Member to fix some time limit for the operations of this Bill. I do not want any time limit. We do not know what is going to happen in the rest of the world and as long as the rest of the world is committed to this control of foreign exchanges, India should also be very careful about the way in which her own foreign exchanges are managed. He still seems to be a sort of diehard so far as the 19th century liberalism is concerned. That 19th century liberalism had served England very well, but it does not seem to go well with England now in the 20th century. Now it has come to be the part of the United States to sing the paeons of free trade, but what was the practice of the United States until the outbreak of the last war? Has she herself given the go-by to her own tariffs and her own closed economy? She did not. Only now she has begun to talk about it, because it is to her interests today to flood the markets of the rest of the world, not only with her own manufactured goods but also with her own monies, lent to other countries under various devices and various guises also. He is afraid that if India were to go in favour of closed economy India would be doing herself great injury. We have had the lessons of pre-war free trade in foreign exchanges. As long as you do not have sufficient control over your own foreign exchanges, there is always the danger of your country becoming liable to be injured hopelessly by the manipulations in Wall Street or in Lombard Street, and there is today among the economists of our country serious discussion going on, as to the repercussions of the relaxation of the various controls that are to be found in the United States. There their prices are rising and it is feared that very soon

there may be a crash there. What might possibly be the results of such a crash no one knows, but most of our economists are afraid that if we do not have complete control over our own exchanges and we are not able to regulate our own economy here in our own country, we are also likely to be dragged down along with the United States, not because of our own fault but because of something that happens in the United States. The United States may be able to stand the rigours of the coming depression, but India may not. India was brought almost to the verge of insolvency last time, and India may not be able to stand the next crisis. Therefore it is good that the Honourable Finance Member has come to the House with this Bill at this early hour, so that India may arm herself with the necessary powers and with the necessary funds and with the necessary mechanism with which she may be able to face the United States crisis that is now in the offing.

Mr. Tyson expressed his happiness at the assurance given by my honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar that India is not going to be an aggressor in the financial world. Why should he have such a fear at all lurking in his mind? Where is the chance of India becoming an aggressor within the next ten or fifteen years? (Sjt V. I. Gadgil (Guilty conscience).) That may be, but I am not quite so sure. Is he afraid that with the sterling securities that are there to our credit in London, we may be able to jeopardise the economy of England? Certainly it cannot be. That money alone will not be able to arm us and place us on the aggressor's list. Evidently, he does not want India at any time to become economically and financially as self-sufficing and able to look after herself. If that is not his intention, then he certainly need not entertain my such 'cat'. He need not be enthusiastic about any such assurance proffered by my Honourable friend. It will take years before India would be able to command such an amount of foreign exchange as to be able to import all the heavy machinery that she wants to build up her own industrial economy here on the scale that is needed and commanded by the growing needs of her own large masses of people in this country. Till then India will have to marshal all her own resources in foreign exchange and centralise them in such a manner that it will be possible for her to place this foreign exchange at the disposal of other countries in exchange for their heavy machinery. In fact, some of our own responsible leaders in our country are afraid that England and America may not be quite so very willing to sell their own heavy machinery needed for the building up of our own basic industries unless we agree to their terms and under such circumstances what is it that India has got to do except build up her own reserves of foreign exchange and then try to negotiate with such other countries as would be willing to negotiate with India on reasonable terms and export their own basic machinery to our country to build all our own manufactures? Therefore, the very basic principle on which this particular Bill is based is good, and for that reason we must all support this Bill enthusiastically.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural). Sir my friend Sir Cowasji Jehangir would probably remember that in 1933 when both of us were in England some bankers told him—and I also had the same story from others—that there are about seven persons in the world who have got a very large floating account in various banks of the world and these persons by transfer of their money from one country to another were in a position to affect seriously the currency of the country. Whatever was true at that time we have got a greater chance of a thing of this kind happening in the year 1946. I have always been apprehensive of this fact, that our currency, that is the rupee, is a managed currency. It is not a thing which really has got any intrinsic importance as it had in the old days before the great war, and unless it is protected by foreign gambling, there is the chance of its collapse at any moment. While we were discussing the Bretton Woods, I had constantly in my mind this difficulty that may possibly arise, and consequently I was in favour of the linking with gold so

[Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad]
 that our boat not be tossed about in the turmoil of the ocean, especially when a big storm is coming on. There may be the danger that these big billionaires in Wall Street may perhaps begin to operate in our currency, they may buy securities, they may deposit monies, they may transfer from Indian banks to their own banks and *vice versa*. There is danger of this kind and we cannot possibly put our neck in the hands of these foreign moneylenders and controllers of the world markets. Now, this restriction of the kind which is now before us is an exceedingly important one in order to stabilise our currency. There is no doubt that one or two provisions of the Bill require consideration. The protection of our managed currency is an exceedingly important thing and every precaution ought to be taken that foreigners may not begin to interfere with the stabilisation of the currency. In 1933 there were no restrictions and everybody had the liberty to deposit the money in the way he liked but subsequent events have changed the minds of the people because in every country we have a managed currency. The real currency which is gold is not to be found anywhere. When these currencies are managed currencies it is exceedingly desirable that every country should guard itself against the attack on its currency. I can understand if we give our goods in place of other goods which we receive but if our goods are given in lieu of managed currency of some other currency it will be a serious position and we want to avoid this. On the face of it, it seems not good that the price should be fixed by Government. A man who reads the Bill cursorily will come to the opinion that very large powers are given to the Government but this is absolutely necessary. This is the only thing by means of which the foreigners sitting in Wall Street in New York can be stopped from investing their money in this country and transferring any large quantities of dollars into rupees. Therefore I welcome this Bill. I think it requires a good deal of improvement. Unless we have a Bill of this kind we shall be in the ocean as I said and we will be at the mercy of the big millionnaires and billionaires in America and elsewhere and one millionaire in America can buy up all the millionnaires in this country. It is therefore exceedingly important that our currency should be protected. We must be sure of the value of our investment. Otherwise it will be in a very doubtful position. With these words I support the motion and I hope that the Bill will be improved in the Select Committee.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It is very gratifying to find a unanimous support from all sections of the House to the motion which I have placed before the Honourable Members. Mr. Tyson has given a critical support, if I may say so, to the measure which is before the House. He has stated that this Bill confers comprehensive powers on the Government and the Reserve Bank and he has expressed a hope that these powers will be used as little as possible. I can assure my Honourable friend that the Government will use these powers as and when necessary. The Government have got firstly to meet their obligation as a member of the International Monetary Fund and secondly to carry out the obligation that the Government have got to safeguard the economic interests of India and I can assure my friend that these powers will not be used for any other purpose except the two purposes which I have stated.

My Honourable friend has said, and I think he has presumed correctly that India does not want to live in economic isolation from the rest of the world. The mere fact of our agreeing to become and remain members of the International Bank and Monetary Fund is proof positive that India is as anxious as any other country to co-operate fully in the economic rehabilitation of the world. My friend has referred to there being no time limit with regard to this measure. I am afraid his analysis of the Bill with regard to controls and the other articles is not a very correct one in this case. Thus, as I said in my speech, is really like balancing the budget and control of exchange in

necessary and there cannot be any time limit for that purpose. This, as he has rightly pointed out, is an enabling Bill and it will be an enabling Act when it is passed by this Legislature and after the assurance that I have given him that this measure will not be used except for the two purposes which I mentioned earlier in my speech he should be satisfied that whether there is a time limit or not it is not going to be used harshly or unreasonably.

There is another point which my friend raised and I think he expected me to say something on that point and it was a reference that was made by Mr. Manu Subedar and later on confirmed by Prof. Ranga that India has no aggressive financial designs against any country. I can say that India certainly has no such design but if any defensive measures which India may take in the interest of its economy, any defensive measures which India may take to improve its financial stability are considered as aggression by India against any country, then I am afraid I cannot help it. It is possible that in some cases some people who have exploited India in the past may feel that the measure which India is taking is an aggressive design with regard to the other countries. But, as I have stated just now, whatever measure we take, it will not be with the intention of doing an injustice to any other country, but it will be with the determination of securing justice for ourselves. Therefore, my friend may rest assured that as long as the present Government is in power, our policy will not be aggression against others, but defence of our own interests. Our policy will not be exploitation of other countries but to save ourselves from exploitation. Our policy will not be to do injustice to any other country or any other nation but to secure justice for ourselves.

Sir, there is really nothing more about which I need say anything except one remark that was made by Mr. Manu Subedar. He has referred to the Indian States. It is a point worth considering and I can assure him that we will consider his suggestion carefully and see what can be done in that direction.

Now, Sir, before I sit down, I would like to say a word about the amendment that has been moved with regard to the personnel of the Select Committee. I accept the addition of those two names that have been proposed by my Honourable friend.

Mr. President: First of all, I will put to the House the amendment with regard to the personnel. The question is
 "That the names of Prof. N. G. Ranga and Captain Syed Abid Hussain be added to the names mentioned in the original motion."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I will now put to the House the amended motion.

The question is

"That the Bill to regulate certain payments, dealings in foreign exchange and securities and the import and export of currency and bullion, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar, Mr. H. D. Cayley, Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson, Mr. P. J. Griffiths, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. P. B. Gole, Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar, Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Captain Syed Abid Hussain, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting) Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill to make provision for the constitution of a special police force for the Chief Commissioner's Province of Delhi for the investigation of certain offences committed in connection with matters concerning Departments of the Central Government, for the superintendence and administration of the said force and for the extension to other areas in British India of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the said force in regard to the investigation of the said offences, be taken into consideration."

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

This is a small Bill which imitates no new principle or new provisions. It is an attempt to put into legislative form a machinery that has already been in existence in the form of an Ordinance, which has been in force for about four or five years. Ordinarily, the offences of bribery, corruption and the like in normal times like all other offences keep within a certain level, but in abnormal times such offences cross the borders of normality. When the war broke out, the conditions suddenly changed and during the war the normal moral standard of all sections of people was more or less affected. It is not in this country alone that this happened but it took the same turn in almost all the countries. In the case of public services it placed innumerable opportunities and temptations in their way, large sums of money passed through their hands, and it was difficult for ordinary mortals to resist the temptation. Few people stood against the flood-gates of temptations that swept the country and all honour to those people who stood the test. We have seen that this evil raised its head first in the army where there are many contractors who thought that it was their life's opportunity. Many sections of people caught the infection and they all thought that war was a God-sent opportunity, few of them even prayed that the war should never end. The war has ended but the aftermath of the war continuously reminds us of what the war was and what it has left behind it.

The Defence Department in 1941 established a special police to deal with this evil by a small force, but this force was flooded with a volume of business which it could not cope with and the results achieved were very disappointing. Therefore, at a later stage, in 1943, Ordinance XXII was passed, establishing a special police force. Now, this force was entrusted with the investigation of crimes of the nature of bribery, corruption, criminal misappropriation, fraud, embezzlement, fabrication of documents and the like, which affected all the Departments of the services. Therefore, this force, of which there was a small number in the initial stage, increased. Its strength rose at a certain stage to 64 officers and 205 men and five legal advisers. That is also the present strength. Now, when the war ended, this Ordinance expired as was to expire six months after the termination of the War, after that in order to avoid a break another Ordinance was passed which will expire in March 1947. That is why, Sir, we have still, under the existing circumstances, the necessity to create a machinery in a legislative form and this Bill is an effort to do so. Now, the House would like to know the work of these 64 officers and of 205 men. The total number of cases investigated is 1,020. The cases sent up for trial were 636 and 128 cases were sent up for departmental enquiry, these were such that evidence was not sufficient to stand the test of a judicial trial. Out of the cases sent up for trial, convictions were obtained in 363 cases, and cases pending trial are 99, departmental enquiry resulted in punishment in 168 cases. This establishment during all this period cost us about 21 lakhs of rupees. But at the same time their efforts resulted in crediting to Government about 6 lakhs by way of fine and it has dealt with or investigated cases involving more than 5 crores of rupees. Now, this force has been transferred to the Home Department after the war ended from the Defence Department and is now functioning in the centrally administered area of Delhi, this Bill provides for its functioning outside the province of Delhi as well with the concurrence of the Provinces so that it should not be suspected for a moment that there is any encroachment on any provincial jurisdiction or provincial autonomy. Wherever it functions, it does so with the concurrence or the previous permission or agreement of the Provinces. Sir, the necessity or the utility of this Bill has been recognised by almost all the provinces. All the provinces were consulted and all of them have supported this Bill except the province of Sind, which it is hoped will also in due course take advantage of this measure. Now, Sir, from the figures that I have been able to place before the House, it will be recognised that there is justification for continuing the force. It has done useful work. The House has seen that the Honour-

able Member in charge of Industries and Supplies wants the controls to continue. Several Honourable Members of this House also want the control to continue, and controls and bribery and corruption almost run a race and go together. You cannot stop bribery and corruption so long as there are so many controls and licences which control almost all branches of our life, public life, social life and private life and necessities of life. Therefore, there is proved necessity for this Bill. It is a simple short Bill which provides for the creation of a police force to be stationed in the centrally administered area of Delhi and its powers, its responsibilities are almost the same or similar to the powers of the police in the provinces. Its liabilities and its responsibilities are almost the same and its functions are limited to the investigation of cases of a particular type. They are such as, bribery, corruption, embezzlement, criminal misappropriation, tampering with documents and the like which affect public service. We do not delude ourselves with the belief that this force has successfully eradicated this evil. It is not claimed. But it has made honest endeavours and in order to assist in this work I propose also, as soon as possible to bring another measure known as a Bill for tightening up existing legislation for bribery and corruption. These measures are considered essential to keep the standard of public service to a certain level and it is hoped that the short measure that I have proposed and which I have taken leave to introduce will get the general support of this House. I also hope that there is no necessity for referring this Bill to the Select Committee or for sending the Bill for circulation for eliciting public opinion, because it has introduced no new thing. As I have stated before, it puts into legislative form the existing state of thing and the machinery that is already functioning. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to say much in support of it nor is it advisable to delay this measure. The Ordinance expires in March 1917 and before that Ordinance expires this Bill should be passed. Therefore, I move for the consideration of this Bill before the House.

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to make provision for the constitution of a special police force for the Chief Commissioner's Province of Delhi for the investigation of certain offences committed in connection with matters concerning Departments of the Central Government for the superintendence and administration of the said force and for the extension to other parts in British India of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the said force in regard to the investigation of the said offences be taken into consideration."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Central Districts and (Hindu Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I welcome this Bill. I wish it had been extended long before to all the provinces. I shall only make one or two suggestions which suggestions need not be incorporated in the Act but may be carried out in practice by administrative orders. In clause 2(3) wide powers are entrusted to persons of the rank of sub-inspector and above. I do not like a sub-inspector should be allowed to investigate into very serious offences against very important persons. He may not in the ordinary course be able to tackle such a heavy responsibility, and therefore I would urge upon the Central Government, before issuing orders, to classify the offences which the sub-inspector may investigate and more serious offences may be investigated by a higher authority. This can be done without any amendment of the provision now made and by departmental orders.

Then I should like that the old set of police should not be entrusted with these special powers. This could easily have been done by modifying the Criminal Procedure Code itself without any special legislation. My Honourable friend chooses to continue the legislation because there is already a piece of legislation specially for the special police whoever is appointed under the Criminal Procedure Code will in that area be charged with the powers of a person in charge of a police station. Now the superintendence of the Delhi Special Police Establishment shall vest in the Central Government who are competent to appoint somebody who has got the powers of an Inspector-General over this establishment. I urge upon the Honourable Member to appoint a judicial officer of high integrity to be in charge of the special establishment. This

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]
 special police is expected to investigate into very serious cases of corruption in the departments of Government. The sub-inspector has all his life been *salaaming* to these persons and he will be the last person to be in a position to muster up courage or the necessary equipment to find out the offender and charge him. Either on account of over-enthusiasm he may go a long way or on account of deficiency of courage he may not catch hold of the right offender. In either case the ordinary police may not be competent to discharge the heavy responsibilities that may be imposed upon them. During the war any officer could have done the work but now we are in peace time and therefore it is necessary that an officer of not less than the rank of a District Judge should be placed in charge of the special police administration so that he may look into the charge-sheets, if they are frivolous he may reject them and if there are grounds which will stand before a court of law he may take suitable action. There may be excesses in catching hold of people guilty of corruption, the persons in charge may overdo these things. Therefore a word of caution is necessary and I request the Honourable Member to appoint in charge of this administration one who is not below the rank of a District Judge with ripe experience of this matter, with criminal jurisdiction.

Then the persons who will investigate an offence has to give directions from time to time. Before the charge-sheet is ready he has to find out whether the offence is sufficient to stand before a court of law.

With regard to the powers of the special police in relation to offence committed in a province or a particular department in a province, the special police becomes for that province absorbed into the police establishment of that province and is subject to the superintendence of the Inspector-General of Police and subject to the liabilities of an ordinary policeman in that place. That is the provision in clause 5. I welcome that provision but in so far as the majority of provinces have agreed to this they will surely try to take as much advantage of this as possible. I would therefore urge on the Honourable Member to enlarge the scope of the offences. The words used here are,—“for the investigation of any offences or class of offences specified in a notification under section 3.” Now under clause 3 it is open to the Central Government alone to specify the class of offences or class of offences with respect to which the special police may investigate. But the provinces may try to use this special police for the purpose of investigating some other offence in relation to these various departments. Therefore to give them the advantage of the experience of the special police with respect to other classes of offences I thought this might have been enlarged, but I do not know what information the Honourable Member has and why, even though he places this special staff at the disposal of the provincial Governments, he does not allow them to use this staff for investigating kindred offences where they may be useful and effective. Then in clause 5(2) the words “liabilities of a police officer” are used. I believe the word “liability” implies liability to send up *challans* to other persons above them and taking their orders. I would have liked that word to be replaced by “subject to the orders of so and so with respect to *challans* and others.” But the word liability is there and if it means that I have no objection.

Then with regard to clause 6, I have my own doubts. I have found in practice that this is not a legislature where we are following the English practice where every word counts. By inadvertence a word may be omitted and when it goes up to the High Court and the Privy Council, they say they can do nothing because the legislature has so enacted it and therefore the rules of interpretation would strictly apply. Where a provincial Government requests, it ought not to be made necessary for them once again to invest the police with these powers. That is what appears to be in clause 6 which read with clause 5 means to me that the special police have to be clothed with special powers of a special police officer. I would welcome some clarification regarding that.

matter I want that when clothing them with special powers, the moment they are appointed they must have all the powers of a police officer of that province.

Sir, I welcome this Bill. It is long overdue and we await with pleasure the Bill which will make bribery a cognisable offence under the Penal Code.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs, Muhammadan Urban). Sir, I did not know it would be my misfortune to listen to a speech of the type delivered by the Honourable the Home Member. No member from amongst the sun-dried and file-ridden civilians could have talked as he has done. One would feel that the bones of Macaulay have really become dust and ashes and that the Indian Penal Code has ceased to exist. Sir, the demoralization of this House, to which I drew your attention yesterday, could be measured by the clapping which the side of the House on my left gave when the Honourable the Home Member sat down. Sir, this demoralization must stop, otherwise all the attractive and brilliant ideas in the brains of my colleagues in this House of our having entered the millennium will vanish into thin air. Mr. President, Sir, I should like to draw the attention of my colleagues in this House through you to Member after Member of the Government of India coming and telling us as if they had no shame as if they had no principles in life, as if the whole of their past had been washed away on their assumption of office that this thing was part of the Defence of India Rules, this thing of course worked in India not four years under an Ordinance and therefore it has to be continued. This means prolongation of the war into the civil life of this country. This Bill is of a dangerous type and no Indian citizen should allow it to be passed by this House with his consent. I was twitted, Mr. President, that I lived in the past. I am proud of living in the past. I should like the newer members of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League to realize definitely and categorically that the present Government is still the Government under the Act of 1919. We have not entered the millennium yet. The thin end of the wedge in which the Honourable the Home Member applies it to Delhi first and then carries it forward to other parts of India is to use a very mild expression, intended to deceive the House of the terrible powers which this Government, which happens to be Indian, is seeking from us. Mr. President, when you get power you go mad, when you get power you forget your past, when you get power you want to dominate. I may tell the Honourable the Home Member that I shall have the privilege of not supporting him because this Bill goes against the grain of the politics which I have followed and which he has followed for the last forty or fifty years. How can I allow this establishment of overlapping of police authorities? Are there no sections in the Indian Penal Code to take care of the crimes contemplated in this Bill? Let the ordinary law take care of corruption, let the ordinary law take care of bribery. Sir, if you pay attention to Section 3, you will see that although he talks of bribery, he talks of corruption and this that and the other, he has not stated the offences specifically in that Section. Sir, any Home Member or any Assistant in the Department can include by a scratch of his pen my relations with my wife. Where are the Law Members and where are the other members of the Government of India who claim to talk

Mr. President: I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member but I believe there is a misconception. This Bill does not create a new offence, it creates a machinery to deal with offences.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Mr. President, Sir, I do not know whether the interpretation you have given is also the interpretation of the Government of India. Sir, with your Indian mind and with my Indian mind we are here seeing a reflection of the Anglo-Indian mind as it existed for decades to our detriment. Sir, I want to know if these offences are covered by the Penal Code of the country? If they are, then why this wretched Bill? Corruption and bribery take two—one that gives and one that accepts—and therefore he may be able to punish the poor man in the department, but I shall have to live long to see that the Government of India has developed the courage to touch the

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi] capitalist and the millionaire. I have heard of many cases of corruption and all sorts of nonsens during these years of war, but the poor man suffered, the bigger folk did not suffer. I could give instances, but I shall not disturb the House longer with my conception of these wonderful methods of crushing our rising spirit of freedom and liberty by people who are not ashamed of prolonging, as I said Sir into the civilian life of the country measures which were intended to meet war conditions. The Supplies and Industries Member wanted controls, the Finance Member wants the rupee to be thrown into the air and come back to us magically as a piece of gold. The Honourable Member considers that we are a nation of angles.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) When you are there we cannot believe it.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi I should think that the Honourable Members will go back home and according to their own methods of appealing to the deity will play 'Oh Lord! let my conscience be clean'. Let not the rights of Indians be tampered with by a Government that has no mind of its own, by a Government that lives on the crumbs thrown by its predecessor in the way of administration. It was the Ordinance and therefore we must accept it. Sir, could humbug go any further? If this Government, consisting of the Congress and the League is going to bring in wretched Bills like these without trying first to amend the terrible sections in the Indian Penal Code for our benefit, the sooner it ends the better. Sir, I cannot control my feelings. I cannot control my sentiments where the freedom of my fellow countrymen is concerned. (Interruptions.) It is all very well for gentlemen who are trying to disturb me to feel that they alone have got the monopoly of nationalism or freedom of liberty. May I point out to them, through you, Sir that they do not understand the meaning of the word freedom or the meaning of the word liberty. (Interruption.) They repeat what they hear from London, Washington and Moscow, and in their new *creations* as Members sitting on Government Benches consider that it will be a crime if we do not support this "Immolation Government" in everything that it wants to do. Sir I shall not be true to myself if I do not tell the Honourable the Home Member that for goodness sake let India go ahead as it is going. Withdraw this Bill because this Bill however, you try to explain it, is another addition to the fetters round the Indian citizen. Governments whosever turn them in Governments and the eternal quarrel between citizens and Governments must remain. We do not want to send the Bill even to a Select Committee for in the Select Committee the Home Member would have been—I hope even under the new mentality of my colleagues in this House—compelled to describe clearly and completely the various types of offences he wishes to control under Section 3. Sir I have had a bit of political experience in my time. Every section of the Indian Penal Code can be brought into this Section 3. Whatever the legal advisers of the Home Department may say I am not prepared to accept that it will stop at the few offences the Honourable the Home Member mentioned before us.

The whole Bill has been drafted in a spirit of cruelty. I hope the Honourable the Home Member will realize that this Bill in its present form, or in any form which adds even one more section to the penal laws of the country, cannot be acceptable to an honest mind, to people who have played their little part in the politics of the country. The new Members of the Government cannot understand that in the present world, in which they have taken power to themselves, their first duty is to protect and take care of the citizen and not to burden him with new criminal laws and punishments.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am surprised at the attitude taken by my honourable friend, Mr. Siddiqi. I am afraid he has taken fright,

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Yes, yes!

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: he is oppressed by a sense of frightfulness and he thinks that this Bill is drafted in a spirit of cruelty. I

in afraid he has not understood Section 3 at all. This Bill creates, as you Sir rightly said, no new offence. The Penal Code is not touched by this Bill. It only sets up a machinery for the investigation of a certain type of offences in the Penal Code by a certain type of special police which has got the experience, the knowledge and the facilities for the investigation of those types of offences. He may wait for the type of new offences that is still to come in a new Bill, called the Bribery and Corruption Bill, because the cruelty which he refers to is not the cruelty or the spirit of cruelty in drafting the Bill but the cruelty which has been perpetrated on the poor masses of this country by those who have taken advantage of the unfortunate situation in which the country was placed during the war and tried to take money by illegal means from the right, from the left, from the front and from all sides.

• **Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi:** By all!

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: And if it is by all, then it is open to you to suggest measures. But this very police has been responsible for arresting those classes of people also whom my friend refers to—even the capitalist whom he has criticised. But the capitalists also by themselves are unable to go through the nefarious deal. They want the partnership of the officers to get through their evil deed, and therefore this is a measure which is aimed at both the parties. Hence it is obvious that it is not drafted in a spirit of cruelty, but in a spirit of pity and mercy. Thus it will give considerable relief to the people who suffer and who have no remedy.

I would point out one fact for the benefit of my honourable friend, Mr. Siddiqi, that this police establishment was responsible for securing conviction of no less than thirty gazetted officers. Is that a creditable performance for the service? It is a creditable performance for the establishment and not for the service. This establishment was responsible for the conviction of sixteen commissioned officers, and if the normal law of the country is not sufficient or is deficient to meet with the abnormal conditions that exist today, it would be criminal to fail in our duty, which demands that we should take a firm stand.

Now a suggestion has been made that a higher officer than a sub-inspector should be entrusted with certain cases. Indeed, it is the practice that when bigger officers are involved, the highest officer is put in charge—in the new Bill that is coming there is a provision that an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police should deal with those cases. But there are certain small cases in which the sub-inspector or the Inspector of Police is quite enough.

I am afraid I cannot accept the suggestion that a judicial officer should be placed at the head of this department. This is a special type of work in which these police officers have specialized and I may say for the information of the Honourable Members that this machinery has worked for four or five years and I have heard nothing but praise for the head of this Department, no complaint has been received so far. Therefore, apart from that, to put a judicial officer in this type of work would not fit in with the circumstances. The investigation of this type of work demands certain aptitude, certain character, and certain experience which a judicial officer would not have. After all the cases go to the judicial officer for trial. These cases are very difficult to detect and as they are in the nature of things difficult to detect the trained personnel which has got this experience for a number of years and who have proved themselves by their ability and work, should be allowed to do that work.

So far as the other point is concerned, that the scope of this class of offences should be enlarged. I do not think that the provinces themselves would relish the idea. The provinces are jealous of their powers. They do not want to be interfered with. The authority they have got and all their ordinary police are quite sufficient to deal with their normal work of detecting offences, but this is a special kind of work in which, if any province wants to take advantage, the machinery is at its disposal.

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

I forgot to make a reference to a point which my friend, the Honourable Mr Siddiqi raised that there is some device in the stationing of this police in Delhi and then extending it elsewhere. It is also a mistaken notion. Delhi Province is the only province which is near and which is centrally administered. We have no authority in the provinces. There is another province, Ajmer, which is also administered centrally but that would not be suitable. The offences to be investigated primarily refer to the Central Services, and therefore Delhi is the only place where we can keep proper supervision and control. But these offences require investigation in the outside provinces, because some of the offences are overlapping and therefore they want jurisdiction in other provinces. So even if the provinces do not want the machinery to be utilised for the purposes of the investigation of our offences it is necessary that our police should have power to investigate those offences in those areas. Therefore there is no device or any special ingenuity by which any encroachment is to be made or any extension is contemplated. That is a mistaken idea.

About the enlargement of the scope of offences, as I have said, the offences are to be notified and the power is to be given for the investigation of offences to be specially notified. If it is found necessary or if there is a demand from the provinces, it would be open to the Central Government to include those offences in the notification. It depends upon how the provinces make their demands. I think the House has accorded its formal approval and therefore I move for the consideration of this Bill. I hope that there will be no amendments. If there is any which has been given notice of I appeal to the movers of the amendments to withdraw them.

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill to make provision for the constitution of a special police force for the Chief Commissioner's Province of Delhi for the investigation of certain offences committed in connection with matters concerning Departments of the Central Government, for the superintendence and administration of the said force and for the extension to other areas in British India of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the said force in regard to the investigation of the said offences, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: As there are no amendments to any of the clauses I propose to put all the clauses together. The question is

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President: The question is

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

REQUISITIONED LAND (CONTINUANCE OF POWERS) BILL

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Secretary, Defence Department) Sir, I beg to move.

"That the Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land, be taken into consideration"

Sir, Rule 75A of the Defence of India Rules provided *inter alia* for the temporary requisition and the permanent acquisition of lands and buildings for the purposes indicated in sub-rule (1) of that Rule. A large number of lands and buildings had been requisitioned by the Central Government as well as by the Provincial Governments, and immediately before the expiry of the Defence of India Act, were still in the use and occupation of Government for various public purposes. In order to give the House an idea as to the extent to which these powers had been exercised during the war, I should point out that the number of requisitioned properties remaining with the Government on the 31st March 1946 was 9,243. The total number of properties which were requisitioned during the period of the war was 10,689. If the Defence of India Act had been allowed to expire without any legislative action in this respect, the lands and buildings permanently acquired under sub-rule (2) of rule 75A would not have been affected, but it would have been necessary to return forthwith to the owners all lands and buildings which had only been requisitioned whether for a definite or an indefinite period.

Retention of some of the requisitioned lands and buildings beyond the 30th September was, and still is, necessary for several reasons. The problem of quartering Armed Forces and ancillary Services and of finding storage accommodation for their equipment and stores will continue to exist for a considerable time. As has been pointed out before on the floor of this House several times, the war has ended but the conditions created by the war still persist. As I explained the other day although the war is over the demobilisation of the armed forces has not been completed. We have still in the Army roughly four times the number of men at the beginning of the war. These members of the armed forces have to be clothed, fed and housed and for all these purposes accommodation is essential.

Secondly, troop movements are still greatly in excess of peace time movements both eastwards and westwards, with the result that transit camps and other facilities have to be temporarily retained.

Then, again, very valuable assets, the value of which amounts to several crores, have been created during the war on many of the requisitioned lands the value of which at the time of requisition was only a fraction of their present value. Government could not, however, legally claim from the owners any part of this increase in value and the return of all such properties on the 1st October, the date on which the special powers under the Defence of India Act terminated, would have resulted in an enormous loss of public money.

It was accordingly necessary to provide for the continuance without a break of the existing powers in relation to requisitioned land beyond the 30th September, 1946. As the legislature was not in session at that time the purpose was achieved by issuing an Ordinance which was promulgated on the 25th September 1946. The present Bill reproduces largely the provisions of that Ordinance.

I should explain that the main provisions of the Bill are as follows.

Clause 3 provides for continuance of all requisitions in force immediately before the expiry of the Defence of India Act and of the power of Government to use or deal with the lands in any manner it thinks fit.

Secondly, the proviso to clause 3 and clause 4 which provides for the release from requisition of any requisitioned land when no longer required by Government.

Thirdly, clause 5 provides for the permanent acquisition of any of the requisitioned lands in certain specified circumstances without resort to the cumbersome procedure laid down in the Land Acquisition Act. The first two circumstances specified in sub-clause (3) of this clause are the same as those specified in section 19A of the Defence of India Act 1938, while the third is considered essential and eminently justifiable.

[Mr G S Bhalja]

And lastly, clause 6 provides for the payment of compensation in respect of the continuance of requisition and any permanent acquisition effected under the Act. The principles and procedure for this purpose will be the same as those laid down in section 19 of the Defence of India Act, 1930.

Sir, I am aware that there is a good deal of feeling in the country as regards the progress of de-requisitioning many of these properties which were requisitioned during the war. I have tried briefly to indicate the necessity for continuing the special powers which Government had taken to themselves during the period of the war. As I pointed out though the war has ended the conditions created by the war still persist and it is therefore necessary that these powers which were taken during the emergency of the war should continue so long as those conditions also persist. Government realise that inconvenience is caused in several cases by their continuing in possession of requisitioned properties, but I shall give this assurance on behalf of Government that no one is more anxious to expedite the process of de-requisitioning properties which were requisitioned during the war than the Government, and that every effort will be made to release as quickly as possible the properties which are now in possession of Government. In this matter, I hope the House will balance the interests of the individuals against the interests of the State. It is true and it is natural that persons who have been deprived of their properties by extraordinary powers during the emergency should have a grievance that these properties still continue to be in the possession of Government, but I hope the House will realise the necessity and the justification for continuing to be in possession of some of these properties so long as the special conditions persist, and will subordinate the interests of the individuals to the larger interests of the state. Sir I move.

Mr Deputy President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land, be taken into consideration."

I think there are some amendments. If they are moved simultaneously, I think the Honourable Member would prefer to make his speech along with them.

There is an amendment by Mr Ahmed E H Jaffer for circulation, he is not here, that drops. A other starts "the name of Mr Ahmed Jaffer for Select Committee and the same name has been given by Messrs Griffiths and Lawson. I think both the amendments are the same. Does Mr Lawson want to move it?

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal Language): Yes Sir. I should explain that I only heard today that Mr Jaffer's amendment was not being moved and I am afraid that I was able to give very little notice of this amendment but I hope you will accept it.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: On a point of order Sir, is the amendment in order?

Mr. Deputy President: The amendment is the same as Mr Jaffer's and it is only for Select Committee. The Honourable Member is not therefore taken by surprise.

Mr G. S. Bhalja: I am just inquiring whether under the Standing Orders the amendment is in order or not.

Mr. Deputy President: The amendment, as it has been handed over to me, is in order but the names have to be given. It is not complete yet.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: I beg to move.

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Mr P J Griffiths, Mr Ahmed E H Jaffer, Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr Mann Subedar, Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqui, Dr G V Deshmukh, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, and the mover, with instructions to report by the first day of the next session and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the committee shall be five."

Mr. Deputy President: Will the Honourable Member hand over the names?

Sri M. Anantasaayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Cumbloor Non-Muhammadian Rural) Was the Whip of this party consulted?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadian Rural). Am I to understand that he has obtained the consent of the members mentioned in the motion?

Mr. Deputy President: Has the Honourable Member obtained the consent of the members?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: As far as possible in the very short time I had

Mr. Deputy President: The practice has been to obtain the consent of the members, but it is open to the Honourable Members who do not want to serve to withdraw their names, but I think it is the practice that the Honourable Member before moving the names should obtain their consent

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Sir, it will come as no surprise to this House that we move this amendment to the original motion for consideration. From questions that we have raised from time to time, it has been tolerably clear that there is extreme dissatisfaction in all parts of this House regarding the speed of derequisitioning of property, both land and housing accommodation. During the last Budget session, it formed part of an actual cut which if it had been pushed would have been most certainly passed by this House. All parties spoke in favour of the cut and indeed the War Secretary himself admitted to this House that the progress of derequisitioning had been unsatisfactory. So, when we are presented with a Bill which provides for the continuation of requisitioning when the whole of our pressure has been in the direction of derequisitioning, we have to regard it as rather a grave measure that must receive very close consideration before it is passed. I suggest, in fact, that if this Bill finally is passed it would be to the benefit of the Bill itself were a number of alterations to be made, that is indeed at the back of our wish to move for the consideration of this Bill by a Select Committee. This is the time not for the continuation of measures for requisitioning but for pressing for quick derequisitioning. We have been lately told by the Honourable the Defence Secretary that so far something like 18 per cent of the requisitioned lands and 80 per cent of the requisitioned buildings have been derequisitioned. Now, Sir, I do not think there is any party in the House that could say that that was very good progress. It is not even adequate progress and whatever the Defence Secretary may say it is not the rate of progress that was indicated to us by the War Secretary during the last session. It was then a matter of complaint that derequisitioning was slow. If it was slow then, what is it now? It is certainly not proceeding at the rate that this House considered necessary and this House must therefore most carefully scrutinise any measures for the continuation of this compulsory requisitioning. Now, Sir, the Bill as in the case of another Bill that has been considered by this House comes under the provisions of the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946 and the period that this Bill will operate is for one year from the 30th September, possibly two years if the Governor General so requires and a maximum of five years, if the two years are exceeded and that is permitted by Parliament. So in fact, in the first instance, all this Bill asks for is that requisitioned property shall be retained in the hands of Government for another six months beyond the period permitted by the existing Ordinance. In fact, if this Bill were not passed, all requisitioned property would have to be returned back to its owners, I think, I am right in saying, by the end of next March; this might not be a bad thing but one does not wish to be unreasonable; circumstances might arise where that would make it extremely awkward for the Government but the effect of this Bill is merely to add another six months in the first instance to the period from the end of March. It might be extended to two years or even five years later but in the initial stage they ask for six months more. There is a fear in the minds of the authorities that they might be made to get rid of all the buildings they requisitioned by the end of next March if this Bill is not passed. Now, I heard the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies yesterday point out that most of the objections to another measure were not on account of the measure itself but on account of the bribery and corruption which that

[Mr C P. Lawson.]

measure brought and I suppose that the Defence Secretary may equally stand up and say—the trouble is not that we are requisitioning but that the provincial authorities and the various authorities that apply this law do not work properly and that bribery and corruption is there, but that is not quite the same story. The fact of the matter is that once property gets into official hands, that property sticks. It is much too easy to hold on to somebody else's property than to build new property for yourself and we have lately had a very good example of that in Delhi in the requisitioning of godowns to accommodate food stock. It is much easier to go and pinch somebody else's godowns than to go in the highways and byways and find one for yourself or build one for yourself. I know personally of a case in which a flat in Calcutta is being occupied by a junior officer of the Railways. The continuation of the requisitioning of that flat has been arranged. It is still requisitioned and it is going on being requisitioned. That officer may say that he belongs to an essential service and he must be there but why should he have that flat more than I should. The fact of the matter is this—When an official is placed in a requisitioned building he is in receipt of a government quarter and he gets that quarter for ten per cent of his salary. The rent of his flat is anything between 300 and 400 rupees a month and that person is certainly not drawing Rs 3,000 or Rs 4,000 a month. In other words, he gets his accommodation a good deal cheaper than he is entitled to get it and in those circumstances these buildings are not being given up. They are sticking and they will go on sticking and the reason why the Defence Secretary cannot give a better showing than this—18 per cent only of land and 60 per cent only of buildings—is that officials are hanging on to the buildings they have got and are not giving them up.

Now, Sir, you may say—what does this mean in terms of the Select Committee. You may say you have put up various points of maladministration. You have pointed out certain aspects in which officials are hanging on to property much longer than they should and how are you going to alter that in the Bill? Well, Sir, I will make a suggestion which is perhaps more in the nature of thinking aloud, but that is the purpose of a Select Committee. It is to think about a Bill and finally produce it in the proper shape and not in the shape in which it is now.

My first suggestion would be to establish under this Bill something in the way of a Board so that these various decisions that are taken are not taken by one official, who is undoubtedly interested, but by people who are disinterested and who may represent the non-officials in that particular district. There is no appeal at present at all from these executive decisions. If I want my flat back and if my flat is in the hands of an official who I do not think should have it, some Estate Officer may tell me that I cannot have my flat back and that is the end of it. I have got to accept what he says. I do not accept that position. I think it is a bad position and I think it is the duty of this Government to see that any Bill that they may produce includes measures which will deal with a situation like the one I have mentioned. We are not working now in war conditions, we are working in peace conditions and it is the duty of the Government to adapt these measures to new conditions. There is no reason now why there should be this arbitrary decision on the part of officials. There is no reason whatever for that state of things now and it is the duty of the Government to remedy it. Unless this Bill goes to the Select Committee, I cannot see how this point can be remedied.

While I am sorry to hold up the business of the House and while it has always been our effort on this side to get business through as expeditiously as possible, here is a case where the Bill should be examined by the Select Committee. And if my Honourable friends in this House who have spoken on this subject before have the same attitude today towards this subject as they had when I raised it last session this Bill will have to go to the Select Committee.

Now, Sir, there is only one other point which I would like to make before I sit down. It is to stress the need for this body or authority whichever you may call it which will be in the nature of a court of appeal. Let us take the

question of the acquisition of land under this Bill I have a piece of land and the Government takes it and puts up a building on it. When I want that bit of land back, normally I might say "All right, take your building away", and presumably the terms of the Land Acquisition Act would apply. Actually, now the Government can take my land without so much as offering it back to me. They might at least offer the land and building to me and give me the first refusal, then if I refuse they could take the land and keep it. Surely, there should be some superior authority to decide points of this sort. The point of the acquisition is made clear in these words. It says

"When the appropriate Government decides that such acquisition is necessary for a purpose connected with the maintenance of defence services or the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community"

Now, Sir, who is going to decide whether my godown is necessary to Government? No doubt when food stocks arrived recently in Delhi, there was a scarcity of godowns. So, the Chief Commissioner says, "It is necessary that I acquire that godown." But who is to say that it is necessary for him to acquire it? He can go to Ghaziabad and get a godown there. Of course, it won't be in Delhi. He can go two or three miles by road and get a godown there. But he will say that it will cost him extra money. So, it is necessary that he should acquire my godown. That is an executive instruction and no one can tell that official to go to some other place where he can have a godown.

Again, Sir, what is the necessity of the defence services? There is no war now. Supposing I have the only godown on a sea coast and the Navy says "I must have that godown. It is necessary for me because it is the only godown on the seacoast." Let them build a godown of their own. There is no necessity now because there is no war.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: May I interrupt the Honourable Member for a minute? The Bill does not give powers to the Government to requisition any further properties. It only gives powers to continue in possession of the properties already requisitioned.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) : But which are unnecessary now.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: That is exactly my point and that is why I referred to a godown on the seacoast. That godown was requisitioned when the war was on and now the Government says "I want that godown. I am going to acquire it." Let them build another godown.

Then, Sir, they can acquire property for the needs of the defence. But the needs of the defence in peace time are not the same as in war time. In fact, during peace time there is no particular reason why they should have that building at all.

Then, again, what are the services essential to the life of the community? My junior railway official presumably is essential to the life of the community because he runs the railways, but is he to have my accommodation because he is the railway official? If so, who is to decide what is essential to the life of the community? The executive officer in Calcutta or Bombay and there is no appeal from his decision.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: What about the community? I am the community.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: Dr. Deshmukh says "What about the community?" He is one of the public spirited citizens of Bombay and doubtless in his spare moments between cutting people up he could sit on a Board and decide whether an appeal from the orders of this executive officer was reasonable or not.

Now, Sir, I think I have made out a case—a very strong and definite case—why this Bill has got no right to be put before this House for consideration and passing in a couple of hours in an afternoon. I think that there is every reason why this Bill should go to a Select Committee and have at least the corners knocked off and I do hope that in the Select Committee perhaps one or two of the corners will be quite big corners when they are knocked off. I hope the Member in charge of this Bill will accept my amendment and I also hope

[Mr C P Lawson]
that my Honourable friends in other parts of the House will support this motion and see that the Bill does go to the Select Committee

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Mr P J Griffiths, Mr Ahmed E H Jaffer, Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr Manu Subedar, Mr Abdul Rahman Siddiqi, Dr G V Deshmukh, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, and the mover, with instructions to report by the first day of the next session and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the committee shall be five"

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I will have only one minute to speak on this Bill as I am going to Bombay tomorrow morning. I support most cordially the amendment that the Bill should go to a Select Committee. My Honourable friend the Mover of the Bill was not in the House during the last session and he therefore does not realise the strength of the feeling in this matter. There is one point I want to raise. I agree that requisitioning should continue in certain cases where Government are at present in possession. With that principle I agree. But I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the injustice that his Department does to owners of properties that have already been requisitioned by the manner in which they treat them while the properties are being derequisitioned. They are not repaired properly. Every obstacle is put in the way of the owner in getting back properties in decent condition. Let me tell my Honourable friends in this House that greater injustice is being done to poorer classes of people in this country than to the rich. I have instances before me where the poorer classes of people living in chawls were put on the streets on account of requisitioning orders. I have got instances just now where poor fishermen were kept away from their homes quite unnecessarily and not properly compensated and rent inadequately paid.

An Honourable Member: They are still being kept away.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: My Honourable friend Mr Lawson made the point of keeping properties unnecessarily. In many cases the poorest people are kept away from their homes simply because it is convenient to another class of people to live in those houses. The war has nothing to do with it, nor have war conditions got anything to do with it. It is merely the convenience of the people who are in possession and the owners themselves may go to the dogs as long as such legislation is on the statute book.

Now, Sir, those are some of the reasons why this Bill should go to the Select Committee. We agree to the principle that there may be certain lands and buildings which Government must continue to occupy just now. But that does not mean that this House should give the Government a *carte blanche* order to continue their present methods of injustice and inequity during the duration of this Act. I should like to have certain assurances given categorically to this House about their future conduct before we are a party to vote for such legislation.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 19th November 1946.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 13th NOVEMBER, 1946
Vol. VIII—No. 2

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 13th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

Mr Harold George Russell, O B E , M L A (Government of India Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

QUALIFICATIONS FOR POSTS IN THE HINDUSTANI PROGRAMME SECTION OF ALL INDIA RADIO

459. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) the qualifications required of candidates for the posts of Hindustani News Editors, Programme Assistants, Announcers and other posts in the Hindustani Programme Section,

(1) the test applied to find out a candidate's proficiency in writing and speaking Hindustani,

(c) the total number of members of the Hindustani staff and the number possessing degrees or diplomas in Hindi and Urdu and in both, separately,

(d) how many of the degree or diploma holders in the Hindustani staff had Hindi as their first language and how many had Urdu as their first language,

(e, whether any knowledge of Hindi is required of the members of the Hindustani staff whose language was Urdu and *vice versa*, if so, of what standard,

(f) how this knowledge is ascertained, and

(g) the number of (i) permanent and (ii) temporary posts in the Hindustani Programme Section held by Hindi and Urdu middle pass persons respectively?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) There are no posts of Hindustani News Editors in All-India Radio. The news bulletins are prepared in English and translated into various languages by Translators/Announcers. A document showing the qualifications, the method of recruitment and the test applied to find out the candidate's proficiency in writing and speaking Hindustani, in respect of the various categories of programme staff of A I R, is placed on the table of the House.

(c), (d) and (g) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to a document containing the required information laid on the table of the House in reply to his question No. 95, dated the 13th March 1946.

(e) The answer to the first para of the question is in the negative, the second part does not arise.

(f) In view of the reply to clause (e) above, the question does not arise.

Statement showing qualifications required of candidates for various posts connected with Hindustani broadcast and the methods of recruitment to these posts.

Name of post		Qualifications	Method of recruitment
Part A			
Programme Assistant	Assis-	Degree examination from a recognised University may be relaxed in special cases. Candidates must possess sound general knowledge, a good command of English and sufficient knowledge of one or more local languages and some experience of literary and/or dramatic work and/or music.	Through a Selection Board constituted by the Government of India usual composition -- D G or DDG or a Sen or S D as President. Two non-official members nominated by Government, (one educationist and the other a public figure). Two S Ds. Candidates knowledge of Hindi or Urdu is tested orally.
Announcers		Good Microphone voice and also a good knowledge of Urdu or Hindi.	By selection by S Ds. The candidates knowledge of Hindi or Urdu is tested orally.
Supervisor, Hindustani Broadcasts		A thorough knowledge of the use of the language, experience of translation work and the capacity to deal with the problems involved along with administrative lines and also a good command of English. Familiarity with both the Hindi and Urdu scripts is desirable.	Recruitment so far made through a Selection Committee consisting of D G, SDDN and two non-official members. Linguistic knowledge is tested by past records perusal of publications etc., and interview.
Hindustani Translator Announcer		Candidates must possess a sound knowledge of English, Urdu and/or Hindi and be able to write legibly in Urdu and/or Hindi scripts. They should also have a good general knowledge of public affairs (Indian and foreign). Preference is given to candidates who have experience of news translation.	By selection by D N & E. S. Proficiency in Hindustani is tested by a written test. Candidates are also interviewed. Final approval by D G.
Part B			
Assistant Station Director	Station Director	Candidates must have passed the Degree Examination from a recognised University. They must possess linguistic, literary, cultural and artistic qualifications of a sufficiently high order to originate, mould organise and supervise satisfactory and attractive radio programmes, they must have a sufficiently wide cultural background to direct broadcasting with discretion, purpose and efficiency, they must possess mental alertness and a live interest in the art of presentation, and up-to-date knowledge of current thoughts in order to maintain a high level of programmes. They must also possess sufficient administrative ability to supervise the programme, engineering and clerical staff under them.	Through F. P. S. C.

Name of post	Qualifications	Method of recruitment
	Part B—contd	
	A sound knowledge of one or more Indian languages in desirable. Cand dates should also preferably have some experience of office administration, journalism and/or literary and dramatic work and/or music, Indian and Western.	
Programme Executive	Cand dates must have passed a Degree Examination from a recognised University. They must possess sound general knowledge and a good command of English. They must also preferably have some experience of office administration, journalism and/or literary and dramatic work and/or music Indian and Western. Knowledge of local language(s) essential.	Through F P S C
Programme Supervisor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Degree from a recognised University 2 Organisational or Executive experience in any Government or commercial concern 3 Some experience of literary and/or artistic work preferable 	Through F. P S C.
Programme Assistant	Cand dates must be graduates. They must possess sound general knowledge with ability to converse fluently and faultlessly in English and at least one local language, and some experience of literary and/or artistic work.	As for Programme Assistants

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member consider reversing the process and getting the original news in Hindustani and having it translated into English because Hindustani is our national language?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: News comes in from news agencies in English, it cannot be reversed

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honorable Member aware that a move has been made to get teleprinters prepared for Hindustani? Will Government give an impetus to this so that original news may come through these teleprinters?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Surely, no action can be taken merely on a move that has been made

GRIEVANCES OF HINDI SPEAKING PUBLIC AGAINST THE LANGUAGE POLICY OF ALL INDIA RADIO

460. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the steps Government have taken or propose to take to remove the long-standing grievances of the Hindi speaking public and bodies like the All-India Hindi-Sahitya Sammelan against the language policy of the All-India Radio?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to his starred question No 928 on the 8th November 1946

INDIANISATION OF THE ARMY

461. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state the steps which the Interim Government have taken or propose to take to Indianise the Army?

(b) How long will it take to completely Indianise the Army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (b) The Honourable the Defence Member is going to make an announcement on this subject today

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any appointments to the Indian army in the officers' rank have been made of non-Indians after the last Budget Session was over?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I shall require notice of that question

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Was this question of Indianisation of the army brought before the Defence Consultative Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Not the whole question of the Indianisation of the armed forces

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know if the Honourable Member is considering the desirability of calling an early meeting of the Defence Consultative Committee with a view to going into this question immediately?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I said that the Honourable the Defence Member was going to make an announcement on this subject in the course of today

Mr. President: Where is it to be made?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: In the Upper House, Sir

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that according to the Willcox Committee report a period of 26 years has been indicated as required for Indianisation? If so will the Honourable Member convey to the Honourable the Defence Member that that is not the way most Members of this House would like Indianisation to be done?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I would ask Honourable Members to be patient for a little while, they will have the full statement before them and I am sure they will be fully satisfied on this matter

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it a fact that the pay and prospects of Indians in the army have not yet been determined?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The pay, pension and other conditions of service are to be determined after the receipt of the report of the Post-War Pay Committee

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it a fact that after the last Budget Session of the House some non-Indians were recruited into the army on the ground that suitable applications were not forthcoming from Indians?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That is a repetition of the same question

GRANT OF EMERGENCY COMMISSION AT THE INSTANCE OF DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND OFFICERS IN THE *Fauj Akhbar*

462. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state

(a) the number of officers whom Emergency Commissions were granted at the instance of the Directorate of Public Relations, community-wise, from 1941 to 1946, along with their educational qualifications, journalistic or technical experience, status and pay held by them before the grant of such commissions,

(b) the number of military and civilian officers drawing more than Rs 250 per month, working in the *Fauj Akhbar*

(c) their academic qualifications including the examination passed in oriental or other languages, and journalistic experience before joining the Public Relations Directorate, and

+ Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(d) the total amount of money paid to the Army Press from 1939 to 1946 in respect of the work done by it for the production of *Fauji Akhbar* and its supplement?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) British—47 Indians—52 (Muslims 23, Hindus 21 Sikh 1, Christians 5, Parsis 2)

Others—8 (Americans 2, German 1, Australian 3, Dutch 1, Chinese 1)

A statement giving these officers' educational qualifications, journalistic and technical experience and status before they were granted commissions (where known) is placed on the table of the House

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table giving the required information

(d) Rs. 19,29,577-7-6

Statement in reply to part (a)

(a) Number of officers commissioned direct into P. R. Dte., showing their qualifications—

S. No.	Civil qualifications and experience
BRITISH	
1	14 years experience as reporter, feature writer, picture editor and feature editor on Glasgow "Sunday Mail", Glasgow "Daily Record"
2	11 years experience of journalistic and publicity work in London and Provinces
3	Not available
4	Editor "Eastleigh Weekly News"
5	7 years experience in journalism and 5 years as free lance cartoonist
6	Experience in Newsreel camera work, Movietone and films. Employed as cinephoto grapher
7	Trained in printing publicity and production work
8	Reporter and sub editor on "Darlington Echo"
9	16 years experience as commercial artist in various studios in Hull and London. Employed as artist
10	3 years' 8 months' with "Hastings Observer" and "Sussex Express" as reporter
11	18 months "Chicago Tribune" Paris. 12 years "Daily Mail", "Cavalcade" and British United Press
12	18 months training in newspaper journalism with a provincial paper including sub editing and make up
13	Cameraman with Gaumont British Picture Corp., England 1935—38. 2 Appolo Picture Corp., Rumania, 1938—40. 3 Gaumont British Newsreel, 1940. Employed as Photographer
14	Press Photographer, "Statesman" (Calcutta). Employed as Photographer
15	Journalist since 1934. Reporter on "Nottingham Chronicle" and "Echo" and "Nottingham Guardian". Joined "Daily Mail" 1936. Wrote articles and short stories in addition to work as reporter. Sub-Editor "Daily Mail" 1936—41
16	15 years practical knowledge of advertising, painting, blockmaking, photography and allied trades. Director of London Advertising Agency
17	Production and efficiency investigator (Badaux Industrial Reorganizing experts)
18	Manager of a commercial art studio. Employed as artist
19	Reporter and Sub Editor, "Southern Times" and "Lancashire Daily Post". Contributor to "News Review" "Courier"
20	film production at Elstree and Denham, England. Apprenticeship with British Acoustics factory. Employed as Cinephotographer
21	12 years on "News Chronicle" (London), Composing Department. Advt. Lay-out make-up, Ludlow. Experienced in all branches of composing, including colour work, book work, periodical and general printing
22	10 years experience of news sub editing and newspaper make up ("Foreign News" and "News Chronicle", London)

BRITISH—contd

S No	Civil qualifications and experience
23	B A Oxford (Hon) School of Politics, Economic and Philosophy. Asstt Editor "Birmingham Gazette" 12 years
24	Staff experience O S, G S Brunch
25	Sales Manager, Kodak Languages Hindi, Tamil, Italian
26	Compositor, Reader (Typographical Assn)
27	Not available
28	Contact Executive in Advt Agency 14 years in Fleet St Writer Industrial designer and typographer A I P A (Associate Institute of Practitioners in Advertising) Lecturer at Institutes Pre examination Lecturers Chairman of Institute Discussion Group
29	Motion picture script-writer Novelist, feature writer Employed as Script writer in Film Section
30	Manager, Photographic Trade Equipment Service, Kodak, Ltd., Harrow Chemical and Mechanical Diploma, Professional School Photography Employed as photographer
31	Commercial artist Employed as artist
32	14 years in newspapers Editorial Managerial, and Publicity Circulation Manager at Sheffield for Allied Newspapers Ltd
33	Journalist Associated Scottish Newspapers Ten years sub editing morning and evening newspapers and magazines
34	Press Photographer in London and Provinces since 1924 Employed as photographer
35	Senior staff reporter and feature writer "Daily Express"
36	B A of Harvard and Oxford Universities 7 years' experience as University teacher and College Principal Education Minister, Indore State
37	Press Photographer 3½ years' apprenticeship as commercial photographer in Copenhagen 1 year as Department Manager in same agency Employed as photographer
38	Reporter and Sub Editor for 11 years Six years as Junior and Senior Editor of Glasgow "Eastern Standard" Three years as reporter with "Glasgow Herald" Glasgow Evening Times" Free lance work with all national papers, yachting correspondent for "Daily Express" sports writer "Evening News" Glasgow
39	Artist and designer at Stewart Knock Studios—Oxford St London, 5 years Clifford Studios—Beauchamp Place, London, 6 months Carlton Studios—Queen St., London, 1 year Chester Studios—Blundford St., London, 3 years Employed as artist
40	10 years journalism Proprietor of a news distribution agency
41	Press photographer with national newspaper experience Employed as photographer
42	Cinematograph processing experience Employed in Film Section
43	London University Exhibition for journalism 23 years experience in journalism
44	Cinephotographies, Elstree Studios Employed as Cinephotographer
45	Not available
46	Postmastership in Modern History, Merton College, Oxford Editor & Managing Director, The Pioneer, Editor The Natal Witness, etc Salary when commissioned Rs 2,750 p m
47	B A University of Columbia Editor, Montreal "Sun", etc Canadian Trade Commissioner in South Africa and Australia

MUSLIMS

- 1 M A (Eng), M A (Arabic), Languages English, Urdu, Punjabi, Persian and Arabic; Broadcasting, Feature writer, literary critic, author and Poet 7 years' experience in lecturing, writing, broadcasting (University Lecturer)
- 2 Diploma course in journalism, King's College, London University
- 2 Diploma course in journalism, ISS junior journalist course, Geneva
- 3 Munshi in Persian High proficiency in Urdu
- 4 Languages English, Urdu, Hindi, Persian (speak, read and write)
- 5 Author—has published half a dozen books in Urdu, contributed articles to *Asiatic review*, London, *The Statesman*, etc Broadcast-features, sound news, plays, varieties, talks both in Urdu and English

8 No

Civil qualifications and experience

- 6 Experience 1 Editorial staff, Bombay Chronicle (6 months) 2 Asstt Editor, Indian Listener, 2 years 3 Bombay Chronicle correspondent in London, 2 years and in Delhi 6 months 4 Reuters Service at Bombay 2 years, Lucknow 1 year, Allahabad 1 year and Peshawar 1 year Urdu journalism 12 years
- 3 B A (Cambridge) M A (Leeds), Experience in teaching university classes and administration of academic institutions Principal Anlu Arabic College, Delhi
- 4 18 years' experience in journalism Written a dozen books Story writer, Poet and Humorist, knows Urdu, Arabic, Persian Inb-1 Punjabi Can read and write Hindi script Editor or Asstt Editor of Sunrise Inqilab, Ishin etc
- 6 M A (Eng), M A (Arabic), Proficiency in Urdu Knowledge of Persian Experience in journalism Also subordinates Accounts Service A G C R, New Delhi
- 6 B A, L L B, Punjab University Languages Urdu English, Persian and Arabic (spoken)
- 7 Languages English, Persian and Urdu Member of the editorial staff of "Zarb-e-Kaleem" B A (Lucknow)
- 8 Asstt Editor "Makhzan", Editor "Firdaus", Asstt Editor Sunrise Manager Ripon Press Author of several short stories and plays
- 9 Officer cadet at Lahore and I M A Dehra Dun Rationing Officer, New Delhi, B A
- 10 M A Economics, B A (Hons) in Persian, speaks Arabic & Persian fluently Moderate knowledge of French Formerly Director of Programmes, All India Radio Employed on broadcasting duties
- 11 B A (Arabic) up to Intermediate Knows Persian Worked as Asstt Editor, 'Ihsan' and 'Inqilab' and Editor of 'Shiraza' and 'Rooman'
- 18 Worked as Asstt Editor The "Ahr", Lahore (Weekly) 'Watan', Baghdad Weekly As Warrant Officer edited 'Fauji Akhbar' (Arabic and 'Hindustan', Cairo Served as Asstt in Charge, Broadcasting in Baghdad (Indian Forces Programmes)
- 13 B A (Punjab) Holds lien on a Punjab Government Post Author of two books in English and several in Urdu
- 14 M A in Economics Worked as Chief Sub Editor National Herald
- 15 Broadcaster in Ceylon and Editor, 'Jang ki khidmat' Calcutta
- 16 B Sc (Hons) in Pushto Languages Pushto Urdu English Persian, Punjabi and Arabic Journalist and writer (Pushto & Urdu) Journalist in Foreign Publicity Office Editor of Pushto Urdu Magazine 'Nim Punan' for about 3 years Author of about 20 Pushto pamphlets
- 17 B A, L L B Qualified at I C S examination Lawyer of 11 years standing Municipal Commissioner Karnal 7 years President of the Govt Debt Conciliation Board, Karnal, 3 years Languages Hindi Urdu Persian and English Free Lance journalist and broadcaster
- 18 B A 16 years in Civil Dept Held appointment of Military Estates Officer. Employed as Military Public Liaison Officer not doing journalistic duties
- 19 B A, B T Headmaster, Lala Musa High School Broadcaster, Feature writer
- 20 English, Urdu and Punjabi 20 years' office experience in Govt of India Employed as Administrative Officer
- 21 Urdu, English, Persian & Arabic Member of British Institute of journalists Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts 15 years' journalistic experience Director of Publicity in Government of Bihar Now Director of Publications Division, I & B. Department
- 22 M A, B T Lectures in English in a Lahore College for 11 years Languages Urdu, Persian German & Arabic Special contributor leading newspapers and magazines. Worked on 'Inqilab' and 'Muslim Outlook' as Sub Editor
- 23 B A Languages English, Urdu & Persian, Commissioned on the request of All India Radio to conduct their Recording Unit

HINDUS

- 1 Accounts, journalism and commercial photography B Sc, in physics and chemistry. Languages Urdu & English Employed as Photographer
- 2 English, Urdu, Accountant, High Commissioner for India, London (1941) B A, L L B, Delhi, L L B, London, Adib Fazil (Hons in Urdu)
- 3 English, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi, B A (Hons), 10 years' journalistic experience Worked for 3 years as News Editor, A I R

S No	Civil qualifications and experience
4	English, Tamil, Telegu and a little Kanarese and Malayalam 13 years' journalistic experience with the "Hindu"
5	M A (English), B A (Hons English) Languages English and Urdu, Journalistic experience in 'Tribune' Lahore 1940-41 Member of staff of the Chinese Commissioner in India 1942-43
6	Not available
7	Chief Sports reporter, "C M Gazette" Hong Kong, Lahore Y M C A, Lahore District Hockey Association, Hong Treasurer, Punjab Badminton Association, Member of several sporting associations in Punjab
8	B A (Hons), Bombay Senior Asstt Home Dept Govt of Bombay Additional, Special Press Adviser Bombay City Languages English Marathi, Hindustani, Gujarati & Kankani
9	M A (1st Class) History from Punjab University knows Hindi, Urdu and can speak Punjabi Experience Sub Editor, "Pioneer" for 7 years
10	B A Studied Architecture, Film Production experience in studios, Asstt Director in Information and Broadcasting Department's Information Films of India Languages Marathi Hindustani English French Gujarati Employed as Photo grapher
11	Press photographer Employed as photographer
12	Matric Punjab University Technical photography 4 years Employed as photographer
13	Asstt Publicity Officer I & B Department Now Publicity Officer Malaya employed by I & B Department
14	M A 2 years' administrative experience in Imperial Chemical Industries 4 years' as Editor of a Sports journal Languages Tamil, Telegu Hindi and Kanarese
15	B A (Vidiasa) Can read and write Tamil and Hindi, and can speak Telegu Publicity Asstt at Madras for 1½ years With A I R since 1939 From July 1942 as Programme Asstt A I R
16	B A Agra University Hindi and Urdu 3 years as News Editor National Journal, Ltd Asstt Wai Department G H Q 1942
17	Dialogue writer, songs composer and Film Director Marathi, Playwright Poet, Marathi journalist story writer and Film Director Languages Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi & English Employed in Film Section
18	M A (English) English, Urdu Persian Hindi and Punjabi Experience—Journalism Member of Editorial Staff of "C" and "M Gazette" Spl correspondent feature writer—Member of Lahore District Wai Committee and produced a weekly Wai Bulletin for over 1½ years for the Wai Committee
19	English, Hindi and Urdu can speak Punjabi and Bengali Experience in journalism News Supervisor in A I R Employed in Military Public Liaison
20	Press correspondent accredited with the Dept of Information and Broadcasting Govt of India Languages English Hindustani Tamil and Malayalam
21	Sub Editor "The Hindu" B Sc 1934, B L 1936 Tamil and Hindustani

SIKHS

- 1 Matriculate from Punjab University Worked as Photographer in D A Ahuja, Rangoon for two years Employed as photographer

INDIAN CHRISTIANS

- 1 Matric G D in Fine Art and Commercial Art (teacher) Art Director in Films, Hindi, Marathi English Employed in Film Section
- 2 11 years' experience on the Pioneer as sub editor Information officer Jaipur State
- 3 Matriculate Qualified R I A F Training course Employed as cinephotographer
- 4 Photographer Knows English & Urdu and photography Employed as photographer
- 5 Manager of firm of film distributors Employed as cine photographer

PARSI

- 1 Employed as advertising agent in Bombay as Copy writer and account executive. Languages English, Hindi, Gujarati, Maharatti
- 2 Not available Employed as cine-photographer

8 No

Civil qualifications and experience

AMERICAN

- 1 Feature writer "Chicago Sun", broadcaster, National Broadcasting Corp of America.
- 2 Staff of Associated Press of America, Shanghai, etc Five years' experience in journalism

GERMAN

- 1 Photographer Documentary film Director and Cameraman and Studio Cameraman Employed as photographer

AUSTRALIAN

- 1 Not available
- 2 Expert in printing and layout 10 years experience of journalism, art editor "Sydney Morning Sun", feature editor, Melbourne "Argus"
- 3 10 years' experience of newspaper reporting and handling of news features on Melbourne "Argus"

DUTCH

- 1 With engineering firm in Rangoon 1934-1942 Languages Dutch, German, Hindustani Technical Mercantile Office, management, film production, photography, radio and electrical engineering Employed in Film Section

CHINESE

- 1 5 years' reporting experience 3 years' commercial experience Import, Export and shipping Languages Burmese, Hindustani, Karen P A to director, Swedish Match Co, Ltd, Ragoon and Jonkoping, Sweden

The status and pay held before they were commissioned is not known as no record is maintained

Statement in reply to parts (b) and (c)

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORATE

Statement showing members of the staff of the "Pauji Akhbar" with their qualifications whose salary is above Rs 250 per month —

<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Academic qualifications including examinations passed in Oriental or other Languages and journalistic experience before joining P R Directorate</i>
Editor	M A (English), Punjab University Passed Intermediate Examination of the Punjab University in Persian Was a free-lance journalist before joining Public Relations Directorate
Asst. Editor	B A (Hons), 1928 Topped the list of successful candidates in the University, M A (Philosophy), 1930, M A (Persian), 1932; LL B, 1939, 1st class First <i>Linguistic qualifications</i> 1 Urdu, 2 Hindi, 3 Gurmukhi, 4 Persian, 5 Arabic, 6 Italian, 7 English <i>Journalistic experience</i> 5 years, Editor, "Postal Advocate"
Manager	Matriculation Punjab University I A Special Class, I A 1st Class English, I A First Class Higher Standard Urdu A S of Education "Distinguished"

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir I am authorised by the Honourable Member (Shri Sri Prakasa) to ask these questions (463-466).

Mr. President: I understand there is no fresh authority.

COORDINATION OF SANSKRIT STUDIES

†463. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that there is no co-ordination of Sanskrit studies in the country,

* Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) whether different institutions and universities are fully authorised to recognise or not the corresponding degrees of other institutions and universities, and

(c) whether Government propose to make arrangements for the setting up of uniform standards for different degrees in Sanskrit for the whole country, so that one institution may be bound to recognise the degree of another institution and admit students for higher degrees when they come with the hallmark of requisite qualification from another institution?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a), (b) and (c) The Honourable member has probably indicated the position fully. The study of Sanskrit in higher stages is conducted by Indian Universities and the degrees granted by one are generally recognised by other Universities. Indian Universities enjoy autonomy in their functions. They recognise courses of instruction provided for in educational institutions in accordance with their Rules and Regulations. The Inter-University Board of India has been set up to co-ordinate courses of studies in the Universities and it should be possible for the Honourable Member to raise the question before that Board and to have it examined although the need for imposing uniformity from without may be less in this field than in others.

SARNATH MUSEUM AT BENARES

†464. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that the 'Lion Capitol' in the Sarnath Museum at Benares has been damaged and badly cracked, and if so, the circumstances in which the accident happened,

(b) if any images and other exhibits in the Museum had been sent abroad, and if so, whether all things have come back and been restored to proper places, and

(c) if Government intend to extend the Museum buildings to store the many valuable images etc., that have to be kept outside in the open yard?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The Sarnath Lion Capitol was found broken across just above its bell portion and there were cracks in the necks of the lions when it was discovered in 1904-05. It is today in exactly the same condition as it was when it was discovered.

(b) No images and other exhibits in the Museum have been sent abroad, the latter part of this question, therefore, does not arise.

(c) No valuable images are stored or kept outside in the open yard. The question of extending the Museum building, therefore, does not arise.

EUROPEAN MENTAL HOSPITAL, RANCHI

†465. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state

(a) the annual expenditure on the European Mental Hospital at Ranchi,

(b) if the patients have to pay anything for their board, lodging and treatment there,

(c) if it is reserved for Europeans only, and

(d) if Government propose to permit non-European patients also to be admitted there?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) The average expenditure in the past five years was Rs 5,89,385 per annum.

(b) Yes, unless they are certified to be indigent by the District Magistrate.

(c) and (d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 340 asked by Seth Govind Das on the 8th November 1946.

+ Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

CENSOR OF CORRESPONDENCE

†466. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

- (a) if any censorship is maintained on private correspondence,
- (b) if the correspondence of Congressmen is being still censored, and
- (c) if a political side of the Criminal Intelligence Department is still in existence, and if so, its exact duties?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (a) No censorship of private correspondence is maintained as such but powers of secret interception under section 26 of the Post Offices Act of 1898 are still exercised

(b) In order to safeguard the secrecy of interception, Government are not prepared to disclose the description and nature of correspondence which is censored

(c) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Central Intelligence Bureau. The function of this Bureau is the collection of intelligence relating to the security of India. It is not in the public interest to disclose the detailed character of these duties

NUTRITION DEPARTMENT

467. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state if the Nutrition Department is a permanent one?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, do Government propose to make it permanent?

(c) Where are the centres for the research?

(d) Are they fully staffed?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) and (b) There is no nutrition department. There is an institution known as the Nutrition Research Laboratories which is administered by the Indian Research Fund Association. The staff of this institution is employed on a year to year basis in accordance with the practice of the Association, with the exception of the Director who has been appointed on a three year contract, and the Assistant Director, who is on a five year contract. The Indian Research Fund Association has no intention of terminating the activities of the institution.

(c) Some nutrition research is conducted in a special section at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. The main centre for nutrition research, is, however, the Nutrition Research Laboratories at Coonoor, maintained by the Indian Research Fund Association which receives its funds from the Government of India. The Indian Research Fund Association also finances a Nutrition Unit at the Seth G. S. Medical College Bombay and another at the Decca University. In addition the I. R. F. A. gives grants for ten enquiries into nutrition problems conducted in institutions in various parts of India.

(d) The staff at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, is adequate. The staff at the Nutrition Research Laboratories and in connection with the various enquiries is employed by the Indian Research Fund Association. Some vacancies left unfilled during the war at the Nutrition Research Laboratories are now being filled. The various enquiries are adequately staffed.

Prof. H. G. Ranga: Are these places being filled by Indians or Englishmen?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: By Indians.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask why the Research Institute is kept on a yearly basis, and not on a permanent basis? Is it an advantage to keep it on a yearly basis?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: The Association operates on a grant given every year by the Government, and for that reason, I think, it maintains these laboratories on a year to year basis. They have been in existence for many years, and there is no intention of discontinuing them.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF AERODROMES MAINTAINED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES

468. *Mr. Madandhar Singh: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state the number of aerodromes maintained for military purposes after the war and also their locations?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The number of Airfields, Landing Grounds and Flying Boat Bases under the control of this Department at the end of war (i.e., the 15th August, 1945) was 415. The total number maintained by the Defence Department at the present time is 101 including three Flying Boat Bases.

The location of these 101 Aerodromes is shown in a statement laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the airfields maintained by the Defence Department as on 1st November 1946, and their location

Serial No	Airfield	Nearest big town	Province/State
1	Adilabad	Adilabad	Hyderabad State
2	Agartala	Agartala	Triपुरa State
3	Agra	Agra	U P
4	Amarda Road	Amarda	Mayurbhanj State
5	Ambala	Ambala	Punjab
6	Arawal	Thal Railway Station	N W F P
7	Arkonam	Arkonam	Madras
8	Aurangabad	N Godavari River	Hyderabad State
9	Badhal	Rings Railway Junction	Jaipur State
10	Baigachi	Barrackpore (Calcutta)	B ngal
11	Banar	Jodhpur	Jodhpur State
12	Bannu	Miranshal	N W F P
13	Baroda	Baroda	Baroda State
14	Barrackpore	Calcutta	Bengal
15	Begumpet	Secunderabad	Hyderabad State
16	Bhopal	Bhopal	Bhopal State
17	Bihta	Patna	Bihar
18	Calcutta (F B B) (Bally)	Calcutta	Bengal
19	Campbellpore	Campbellpor	Punjab
20	Chabua	Dibrugarh	Assam
21	Chakeri	Cawnpore	U P
22	Chaklala	Rawalpindi	Punjab
23	Chakula	Chakula	Bihar
24	Charia	Asansol	Bihar
25	Chela	Jamnagar	Nawanagar State.

Serial No	Aufield	Nearest big town	Province/State
26	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Madras
27	Cox's Bazar	Chittagong	Bengal
28	Dab	Chakwal	Punjab
29	Dalbandin	Dalbandin	Baluchistan,
30	Deolali	Deolali	Bombay
31	Dergaon	Dergaon	Assam
32	Dharmial	Rawalpindi	Punjab
33	Digri	Midnapore	Bengal
34	D I Khan	D I, Khan	N-W F P
35	Dinjan	Dibrugarh	Assam
36	Drigh Road	Karachi	Sind,
37	Dronk	Chitral	N-W F P
38	Dudhkundi	Kharagpur	Bengal.
39	Fatehyung	Rawalpindi	Punjab
40	Fenny	Fenny	Bengal.
41	Fort Sandeman	Fort Sandeman	Baluchistan.
42	Gurgaon	Gurgaon	Punjab
43	Hakimpet	N Hyderabad	Hyderabad State
44	Jandola	Wanza	N-W F P
45	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	Jodhpur State
46	Kalaikunda	Midnapore	Bengal
47	Kanchrapara	E Hooghly River	B. ngal
48	Kharagpur	Kharagpur	Bengal
49	Kohat	Kohat	N-W. F P
50	Kolar	Kolar	Mysore State
51	Kumbhurgram	Silchar	Assam
52	Lahore	Lahore Cantt.	Punjab.
53	Lalitpur	Lalitpur	U P
54	Lalmanir Hat	Rangpur	Bengal
55	Landikotal	Landikhana Rd Heed	N.-W. F. P.
56	Ledo	Ledo	Assam
57	Maharajpur	Gwalior	Gwalior State.
58	Malir	Karachi	Sind
59	Mauripur	Karachi	Sind
60	Mir Ali	Bannu	N.-W. F. P.

Serial No	Airfield	Nearest big town	Province/State
61	Miranshah . . .	Bannu .	N.-W. F. P.
62	Murid	Chakwal .	Punjab,
63	Nal .	Bikaner .	Bikaner State
64	Numach	Indore	Gwalior State
65	Ondal	Ondal	Bengal
66	Palam .	New Delhi	Delhi
67	Parachinar	Thal Town	N.-W. F. P.
68	Peshawar	Peshawar	N.-W. F. P.
69	Phapansu	Allahabad	U. P.
70	Pishin	Quetta	Baluchistan
71	Poona	Poona	Bombay
72	Raichur .	Raichur	Hyderabad State.
73	Rampur Hat	Rampur Hat	Bengal
74	Ranchi	Ranchi . . .	Bihar
75	Razmak .	Razmak	N.-W. F. P.
76	Redhills Lake (F B B)	Madras	Madras
77	Risalpur	Nowshera .	N.-W. F. P.
78	Risalwala	Lyalpur .	Punjab
79	Rudramada	Bhuj	W. India State.
80	Rupsa	Dhubri .	Assam
81	Sadiya . . .	Sadiya .	Assam
82	Salawas .	Jodhpur . . .	Jodhpur State.
83	Salban	Salban .	Bengal.
84	Sambro	Belgaum . . .	Sangli State.
85	Samungli . . .	Quetta .	Baluchistan
86	Saranan . . .	Quetta . .	Baluchistan.
87	Sararogha	Razmak .	N.-W. F. P.
88	Sargodha .	Sargodha .	Punjab
89	Sarweka .	Bannu .	N.-W. F. P.
90	Shibganj . . .	Thakurgaon .	B. ngal
91	Soakerating .	Makum .	Assam
92	Spezand	Quetta .	Baluchistan.
93	Sulur .	Coimbatore	Madras
94	Tambaram .	Madras . . .	Madras
95	Tank .	Bannu . . .	N.-W. F. P.

Serial No	Airfield	Nearest big town	Province State
96	Thal	Thal Town	N-W.F.P.
97	Trombay (F.B.B.)	Bombay	Bombay
98	Tulihal	Imphal	Assam
99	Vizianagram	Vizianagram	Madras
100	Wana	Wana	N-W.F.P.
101	Yellahanka	Bangalore	Mysor State

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What will happen to the other landing grounds and flying boat bases?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: 101 landing grounds, etc., are to be retained by the Defence Department, 15 have been transferred to the Director General of Civil Aviation for civil aviation purposes, and 260 are to be disposed of.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask for some clarification of that word—'to be disposed of'? Are they going to be sold away or are they going to be dismantled?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Of these 260 airfields which are the subject of disposal, letters declaring them surplus have already been issued in respect of 242. The remaining 18 are under consideration. The intention is that runways, taxi tracks, hard standings, etc., where they exist on these fields will be retained by the Central Government. This will be done as a form of insurance in case of a future emergency and because of the prohibitive cost of restoring land covered by several inches of concrete to its original condition. The Provincial Governments are going to be informed very shortly that if they so desire they may take over and maintain any of these works at their own expense.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May we have the assurance that these airfields and landing grounds will not be either dismantled, destroyed or sold?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Yes, Sir. I have indicated that if the Provincial Governments desire to maintain them, they will be handed over to them for maintenance purposes and the rest which are likely to be utilized or required for defence purposes will be maintained by the Central Government.

Mr. Mann Subedar: May I know in how many cases of these military aerodromes which were located in Indian States territories, the aerodromes have been handed over to the Indian States and may I know how much and why Government demand payment for these aerodromes from these States?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Have Government arrived at any decision with regard to which Landing Grounds, etc., they are going to retain and maintain?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Yes, Sir. I am laying a statement on the table of the House showing the aerodromes which will be retained by the Defence Department.

RECRUITMENT TO INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE

469. ***Mr. Mann Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the total number of men in the Indian Civil Service?

(b) How many were recruited during the years 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47 (upto 80th September 1946), and by what process?

(c) Have Government reached any conclusion as to the method of recruitment in future and the machinery by which they would be recruited?

(d) Do Government intend to continue recruitment of non-Indians in service in future?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The total number of officers in the Indian Civil Service on 1st January 1946 was 1022

(b) Seven candidates were recruited during 1943-44 by competition and two by nomination. There has been no recruitment since then.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to Sardar Mangal Singh's starred question No. 71 on the subject on the 30th October 1946.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pahlwal's question No. 321 on the 8th November 1946.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: Do Government intend to recruit any non-Indians under the scheme put forward by the Secretary of State assuring them after such recruitment of very heavy gratuity and other charges in addition to all the allowances and emoluments which were given to the old civil servants?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The scheme referred to by my Honourable friend has not yet been received.

RETIREMENT ON PROPORTIONATE PENSION AND GRATUITIES TO I C S OFFICERS

470. ***Mr. Mannu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many members of the Indian Civil Service have exercised their rights to retire upon proportionate pension and how many of them have claimed gratuities under the new rules?

(b) What are the names of these officers?

(c) What is the amount of gratuity so paid?

(d) How many officers are affected by the proposed termination of their contract and their re-employment under new conditions?

(e) Has any decision been reached as to when and how this is to be done?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (e) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to premature retirements in view of the impending constitutional changes. At present there is a ban on retirements save in exceptional circumstances upto 31st December 1946. I place on the table a list of persons whose retirement on proportionate pension has been approved by the Secretary of State during 1946. No scheme for the winding up of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police has yet been formulated by the Secretary of State. In pursuance of the conclusions reached at the Premiers Conference recently convened by me, the Secretary of State has been requested to expedite his proposals in this respect to terminate forthwith his connections with these Services and to fix a very early date for this purpose. His reply is still awaited. The total number of those who would be affected by these proposals is 1,022 which is the total strength of the Indian Civil Service cadre. The question of their re-employment will arise only after the scheme of new conditions of service is framed. As regards gratuity the Honourable Member is presumably referring to the compensation terms announced for war-service candidates. The Secretary of State has decided to stop recruitment to the Indian Civil Service but before this announcement 31 candidates had been offered and had accepted employment in the Indian Civil Service. The Secretary of State has sanctioned compensation grants amounting to £11,862-10-0 to these candidates. Since recruitment has been stopped, no further liabilities on this account will arise.

Names of I C S officers whose applications to retire on proportionate pension was approved by the Secretary of State during 1946*

Serial No	Name of Officer
1	Lt Col R H M Clayton (Bombay)
2	Mr R A E Williams (Orissa)
3	Mr D H Elwin (Madras)
4	Mr A J Salisbury (Bihar)
5	Mr T Bhaskara Rao Nayudu (Madras)
6	Mr L J Lucas (Bihar)
7	Mr R N Gooderson (Punjab)
8	Mr W H Jacks (Madras)
9	Mr E S Hyde (Bihar) on leave
10	Mr J S Hardman (Bihar)
11	Mr H B Martin (Bihar)
+12	Mr N K Paterson (C P & Berar)
13	Mr J M Corin (Bombay)
14	Mr W W Dalziel (Bihar)
15	Mr D C Elliot
+16	Mr W T Bryant (Madras)

* The officer is due to retire in each case after the expiry of leave due to him

+ These officers are contemplating withdrawals of their requests to retire on proportionate pension

Mr Manu Subedar: Will Government consider the desirability of not re-engaging any non-Indian who retires from these Services who claims full compensation and who then offers himself for a fresh job under this Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There has been no such case of re-employment before Government at present but the point will be considered when any such question arises

EMPLOYMENT IN PRIVATE FIRMS OF HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

471. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether Government have considered the problem arising out of the negotiations with highly placed Government servants by business firms, who offer them jobs either at once or on their retirement?

(b) Will Government consider the advisability of enacting a law, which would oblige such negotiations to be done with the full knowledge of Government, and also whether they propose to take powers to prevent Government officers from being enticed away into private employment?

(c) Have Government enquired whether inducements for future employment given now will not in some cases result in special favour being shown to such parties?

(d) How many officers of Government of the status beginning with and higher than Deputy Secretary have, during the last five years, left Government service, or retired, and have taken up employment with private firms? Who are they?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The number of such persons is comparatively small and consequently there is no problem of importance which could claim Government's special attention

(b) In view of the answer to clause (a), Government do not consider that drastic measures suggested by the Honourable Member are necessary. In any case no legislation is required and if any such contingency arises, it can be covered by rules

(c) Government are mindful of this possibility and the question of taking precautions against it requires consideration

(d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as possible

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government as one of the precautions against the inducement given to existing very highly placed Government servants offer to them an assurance that the emoluments and the terms and conditions of work for high officers of the Indian Civil Service who are now engaged will not be altered whatever the change may be with regard to the new recruitment of new men who may be taken?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No change is contemplated

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government declare their intention of being informed in time that a highly placed Government servant is approached by a business firm with a proposition of future service? In other words, will Government declare it as a policy that negotiations should take place with the full knowledge of Government and not privately

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think that any negotiations can proceed without the knowledge of Government

APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION FROM EX-ENEMY ALIENS, REFUGEES, ETC.

472. ***Mr. Manu Subedar.** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to the numerous applications for naturalization from ex-enemy aliens, refugees, stateless people and others?

(b) What is the general policy of Government in this matter?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of bringing legislation on the subject of Indian nationality and the conditions under which persons may be admitted to such nationality?

(d) Is decision on these applications taken independently in India by the present Government, or is a reference made to the United Kingdom as these people are claiming to become 'British nationals'?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes

(b) The policy of the Government of India in this matter was announced in a press note dated the 23rd July 1945 a copy of which is laid on the table of the House

(c) The question is being examined

(d) The decision is taken independently by the Government of India without making a reference to His Majesty's Government

PRESS NOTE

In 1940 in war conditions the Government of India suspended the naturalisation under the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act of subjects of European countries save in most exceptional circumstances. The position has now been reviewed and applications for naturalisation will again be considered

The grant of naturalisation cannot be claimed automatically on completion of the minimum period of residence prescribed under Statute, it is granted only when, after careful enquiries, it is established that the applicant is worthy of British citizenship

Such enquiries must take time but in order to minimise the inevitable delay a questionnaire has been prepared, copies of which can be obtained on application from the Home Department New Delhi. These forms should, on completion, be forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, New Delhi

When these forms have been scrutinised, if it is considered that an applicant is not *prima facie* ineligible for naturalisation, he will be asked to insert an advertisement in the papers announcing that he has applied for naturalisation and the Provincial Governments will be requested, when this has been done, to institute the usual inquiries and to require the applicant to comply with the prescribed formalities

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that these people are claiming British nationality by naturalisation in India, and if that is so, will Government consider how soon we can have a definite policy formulated of having an Indian nationality?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Will the Honourable Member repeat the question?

Mr. Manu Subedar: These persons who claim naturalisation in their applications now are requesting to be admitted as a British national. The term used is British, though they are claiming naturalisation in India. Will Government consider a policy and consider the terms and conditions under which any one who claims citizenship in this country would claim to be an Indian national?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question will be considered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered that some of these refugees on Bombay side are not of a very desirable type, and do Government ascertain in each case the source of livelihood and the manner and method of their activities before the applications for naturalisation are passed?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No application is sanctioned in cases in which there is any report against the applicant.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it merely a political report which is considered, or is it the economic activities of such men? Most of them in Bombay side have been black-marketing and profiteering and not paying one single rupee as tax to the Honourable the Finance Member?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Every aspect of the question is considered.

CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR LABOURERS ON THE PREMISES OF FUEL DEPOTS IN NEW DELHI

1473 ***Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** (a) With reference to the short notice question on the 11th February, 1946, and the starred question No. 1803 on the 17th April, 1946, will the Honourable Member for Health please state at what stage the construction of quarters for labourers on the premises of fuel depots in New Delhi is?

(b) Is it a fact that the fuel depot owners have submitted their plans and estimates to the New Delhi Municipal authorities about three months ago for their approval but the Municipality have not moved in the matter till now?

(c) Is it a fact that the labourers are put to great inconvenience for want of dwelling houses on the premises?

(d) In view of the approaching cold season, will Government consider the advisability of instructing the New Delhi Municipality to get the quarters completed soon, so that the labourers may not be exposed to cold and wind?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) In the programme of works of the New Delhi Municipal Committee for 1947-48 a provision of Rs. 9,000 has been made for the construction of 24 permanent quarters adjacent to the fuel depots.

(b) Yes. The plans and estimates are for temporary shelters at the depots and will be considered by the Committee at their next meeting to be held on the 19th November 1946.

(c) The labourers do suffer some inconvenience.

(d) Yes.

APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF MUSLIM EPIGRAPHIST IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

1474. ***Mr. Ahmed H. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state if it is a fact that recently a post of Muslim Epigraphist was sanctioned by the Government of India in the Archaeological Department?

(b) Is it a fact that one permanent Muslim Assistant Superintendent in the regular cadre of the Department was appointed to that post?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes The post of a Muslim Epigraphist was created 18 months ago

(b) An Assistant Superintendent in the regular cadre who is a Muslim has been found fit and appointed to this post

REST AND RECREATION LEAVE FOR MEN IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

475. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member for Education please state the names, designation and monthly emoluments drawn by the members of the Director General of Archaeology's Office who went on leave for rest and recreation during the year 1946?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table of the House.

Statement giving the information relating to the leave of certain officers in the Archaeological Department

Name of Officer granted recreation leave	His designation	His monthly Emoluments
1 Dr. K. A. A. Ansari	Executive Engineer	Rs 917
2 Mr. K. Deva	Assistant Superintendent	350
3 Mr. M. A. Baig	Stenographer	299
4 Mr. D. R. Sharma	Librarian	353

APPOINTMENTS TO TEMPORARY POSTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

476. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state how many temporary or work-charged posts were created by the Director General of Archaeology from January 1946 to date?

(b) Who were the persons appointed to these posts, giving details of the posts and the communities to which they belong showing in each case their monthly pay and allowances?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari. (a) Since January 1946, fourteen temporary or work-charged posts of motor-drivers, store-keepers, modellers, etc., have been created by the Director General of Archaeology

(b) Eight posts were given to Muslims and six to Hindus. A statement giving all the information asked for is laid on the table of the House

Statement relating to work-charged or temporary posts created in the Office of the Director General of Archaeology from January 1946 up to date

Name	Post	Pay	Allowances	Community
<i>Headquarters</i>				
		Rs a p	Rs. a p	
1 Mr. Nidar Singh	Motor Driver	154 8 0	30 12 0	Hindu
2 Mr. Barkat Beg	Do	154 8 0	30 12 0	Muslim.
3 Mr. Abdul Hamid	Store Keeper	44 8 0	21 12 0	Muslim

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Name	Post	Pay	Allowances	Community
<i>Excavations Branch</i>				
		Rs a p	Rs a p	
4 Mr Ghulam Sarwar	Store keeper	59 8 0	58 12 0 (including Simla allowances)	Muslim
5 Sardar Din	Sub-overseer	59 8 0	58 12 0	Muslim
6 Mr Karam Din	Foreman	59 8 0	58 12 0	Muslim
7 Mr Ibrahim	Work Assistant	64 8 0	21 12 0	Muslim
<i>Central Asian Antiquities Museum, New Delhi</i>				
8 Mr H C Jain	Gallery Assistant	84 8 0	26 12 0	Hindu
9 Mr Fazal Din	Modeller	124 8 0	24 12 0	Muslim
<i>Archaeological Chemist in India, Dehra Dun</i>				
10 Mr R C Thapyal	Laboratory Assistant	84 8 0	21 12 0	Hindu
<i>Northern Circle, Agra</i>				
11 Mr Gaurishankar	Draftsman	104 8 0	21 12 0	Hindu
<i>um, Calcutta</i>				
12 Mr H K Bose	tant	204 8 0	47 12 0	Hindu
13 Mr A Ghosh	Marksm		25 12 0	Hindu
14 Mr Abdul Aziz	Modeller		24 12 0	Muslim

AUCTION OF THE PROPERTY OF RAMTAL ASHRAM, KATHARIA SERAI, MEHRAULI, DELHI PROVINCE

477 *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please refer to the list of 76 articles belonging to Shri Gandhi Seva Ashram, Ram Tal, Katharia Serai, Mehrauli, Delhi Province, as provided by Government in reply to Unstarred question number 216, put by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, on the 15th April, 1946, and state the amount realised by Government by auctioning the property of the Ramtal Ashram, Katharia Serai, Mehrauli?

(b) When was the auction held, and how was it advertised?

(c) Was the whole lot sold to one man? If so, what was the name of the person?

(d) Is it a fact that the amount offered by the Local Government to the Provincial Congress Committee for the entire belongings of the Ashram, which were valued at more than Rs 1,000 as auction proceeds is Rs 5? If so, do Government propose to make an enquiry into the matter as to why such valuable property was sold for sum of Rs 5 and compensate the Ashram?

(e) Is it a fact that at the time of confiscation of the said property on the 25th August, 1942, a list was duly prepared by the Police but its copy was not given to the Ashram authorities? If so, do Government propose to place it on the table of the House?

(f) Have Government got a list of the articles which were returned to Master Tula Ram on the 11th December, 1942? If so, do Government propose to place it on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Out of 76 articles 35, a list of which is laid on the table, were auctioned for Rs 40. The remaining articles comprised documents which were considered objectionable by the local Administration and were destroyed.

(b) The auction was held on the 26th May 1945. It was advertised as usual by pasting notices on notice boards in the Kutcherry compound.

(c) The property was sold to one man named Mohammad Ismail Kabari.

(d) No such offer appears to have been made.

(e) At the time of attachment of the buildings in question, on the 26th August 1942, lists of articles found therein were duly prepared by the Police and signed by Tula Ram s/o Devi Ram Biahman and two witnesses named Qazi Mohanmad Said Sufed Posh and Kesho Ram Lambardar. The articles found in the buildings were partly confiscated and partly restored. A list of the articles confiscated was placed on the table of the House on 15th April, 1946, in reply to question No 216. A list of articles restored is now placed on the table in reply to part (f) below.

(f) A copy of the list of the articles, which were handed over to Master Tula Ram on the 11th December 1942, is laid on the table.

List of Articles Auctioned

- 1 Wooden charkhas 6 broken
- 2 Atairan 1
- 3 Wooden desk 1 broken
- 4 Coloured chalk boxes (badly eaten by white ants)
- 5 White copies (blank) (badly eaten by white ants)
- 6 Black ink ($\frac{1}{4}$ seer)
- 7 Small counting frame (wooden broken)
- 8 Small wooden black board (broken)
- 9 Iron bar for ringing bell
- 10 Wooden boards (broken)
- 11 Table bell
- 12 Taqias
- 13 Compass (marmus)
- 14 Compass (drawing)
- 15 Bundle of broken atairan
- 16 Taqies
- 17 Atairan taqies (broken)
- 18 Wooden roller (broken)
- 19 Woodenfaat (broken)
- 20 Small almirah (broken)
- 21 Small glahe
- 22 Brass compass (broken)
- 23 Broken wooden charkhas
- 24 Wooden boxes (eaten by white-ants)
- 25 Wooden boards (eaten by white ants)
- 26 Wooden takhut (broken)
- 27 Black board (broken)
- 28 Wooden board (broken)
- 29 Bed nawar (broken)
- 30 30 Wooden takhut (broken)
- 31 Wooden desk (broken)
- 32 Wooden charkha (broken)
- 33 Broken cycle without number
- 34 Weaving and spinning material
- 35 Worn out materials such as tasalas, bories and charkhas

List of property restored

No	Description of property	No
1	Faraahi narial	2
2	Almura containing two glass boxes	1
3	Brass scale pans	2
4	Brass katori	1
5	Brooms	2
6	Waste paper basket	1
7	Small jute bags	3
8	Knife	1
9	B g lamp	1
10	Small lamps	2
11	Small balti	1
12	Wooden iron boxes	3
13	Empty small tin boxes	2
14	Rope made of sunn	1
15	Bundle of waste papers	1
16	Brass whistle	1
17	Bottle of phenyl	1
18	Bottle containing churan	1
19	Bottle containing narial oil (one chhatak)	1
20	Bottle containing one chhatak of honey	1
21	Small Swan Ink	1
22	Oil kuppi	1
23	Phial containing Jawa n	1
24	Earthen jar which is empty	1
25	Katori of Chini Matti	1
26	Munj khat	1
27	Munj khatola	1
28	Jar of Matti Chini containing atuple salt	
29	Sambhar	2 srs
30	Bundle of waste paper	1
31	Trunk containing torn out khailar clothes and quilt	1
32	Khaddar curtains	3
33	Khaddar pillow covers	2
34	Red Muffler	1
35	Torn out khaddar shirts	2
36	Torn out khaddar peti coats	2
37	Torn out khaddar ari	1
38	Bagona oinpi	1
39	Brass plate	1
40	Cup of Matti Chini	1
41	Empty tin	1
42	Katori of Matti Chini	1
43	Small iron tashlahs	6
44	Big old lamp	1
45	Pansari batte	1
46	Pawwa tin	1
47	Small earthen jars	3
48	Iron sieve	1
49	Small iron kharani	1
50	Bil batte	1
51	Broken bans chokhat	1
52	Big iron karahi	1

No.	Description of property	No
53	Small scale	1
54	Big scale	1
55	Iron battas of one seer, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer, 2 chatiaks, one chhatak and 4 chhataks	
56	Broken wooden box	1
57	Drum tin	1
58	Bundle of waste paper	1
59	Almirahs containing big bottles of medicines	15
60	Medium sized bottles containing medicines	17
61	Small bottles containing medicines	31
62	Cardboard box containing surgical medicines	5
63	Almirah containing big empty bottles	24
64	Bottles of big size containing medicines	3
65	Empty small phials	11
66	Small tin box containing medicines	12
67	Tin box containing operation instruments	1
68	Tin box containing empty small phials	49
69	Box containing empty tin box	6
70	Boxes containing ointment	11
71	Small phials containing medicines	11
72	Small empty phials	6
73	New phial of glycerine	1
74	Bombay ointment stick	1
75	Eye droppers	5
76	Wooden desk containing old bandages and ointment of Cotton Chemical, Calcutta	1
77	Old Register	1
78.	Bera Singa	1
79	Register of out-door patients	1
80	Wooden kalamdan	1
81	Pen	1
82	Ink-pot	1
83	Iron Rat Traps	2
84	White khaddar towel	1
85	Ointment slate	1
86	Iron Hawan Dasta	1
87	Stone Kharsal	1
88	Enema	1
89	Small Tashtaries of Tamchuni	2
90	Big taela of tamchuni	1
91	Cups of Tamchuni	3
92	Soap case of Tamchuni with sunlight soap sake	1
93	Small jug of Tamchuni	1
94	Small broken tin filter	1
95	Iron Anghuthi	1
96	Kettle of Tamchuni with cover	1
97	Broken tin can	1
98	Bag containing safrin medicines	1
99	Wooden box	1
100	Old broken wooden takht	1
101	Folding chair	1
102.	Wooden stool	1
103	Wooden dhanki	5

No	Description of property	No
104	Time Piece Brand	1
105.	Wooden box containing torn out clothes	3
106	Iron fork	1
107	Wooden stretcher	1
108.	Small broken filter	1
109.	Tin trunk containing clothes and documents, e g , certificates	
110	Almirah containing torn out old books	2
111	Iron basula	1
112	Iron sieve	1
113	Iron batta of 2 seers	1
114	Iron bell	1
115	Shrimad Bhagwat Gita	1
116	Monthly Kalyan Risala	1 Vol.
117.	Kalyan Journals	27
118	Bundle of waste paper	1
119	Chaki of stone	1
120	Big balti	
121	Small balti	
122	Garvi	1
123	Iron pipe	1
124	Munj charpai of bamboo	1
125	Lamp	1
126	Tin containing one seer of kerosene oil	1
127	Iron spade with wooden handle	1
128	Wooden spade	1
129	Iron bell	1
130	Books in Hindi	16
131	Wooden dewat	1
132	Cycle Hercules No 746	1
133	One chaddar made of khaddar	5 Yds

Prof N. G Ranga In regard to those articles which were destroyed, will Government consider the advisability of enquiring about their nature and their cost and compensating the Ashram concerned?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I think nothing can be done about the articles. They have been destroyed and it has been considered to be closed in the general appeal of forget and forgive.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Member please enquire into the articles numbering thirty-five or thirty-six, auctioned for a paltry sum and find out whether the auction was considered fair and also find out the reasons for doing so?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well it was sold in the ordinary course and no enquiry would serve any purpose.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Member aware that this list of articles consisted of big beds and furniture?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Perhaps they might have been in a rotten state.

DISTRICT BOARD OF DELHI

478. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the District Board of Delhi consists of 21 members out of which ten are officials and nominated,

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chairman is also an official, namely the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi,

(c) whether it is a fact that in the adjoining Provinces of the United Provinces and the Punjab the District Boards consist of an overwhelming majority of elected members and have non official Presidents, and

(d) whether Government propose to democratise the District Board by making suitable changes in its constitution?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Out of 21 members four are officials, five nominated members and twelve are elected members

(b) Yes

(c) In the United Provinces a District Board has a majority of elected members and an elected non-official Chairman. It is understood that in the Punjab the majority of members are elected but in most districts the President of the District Board is an official

(d) The matter will be considered

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know as to how long it will take the Government to come to a decision in the matter?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I am unable to say exactly, but the decision will be arrived at shortly

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For the last several years this demand for democratising these local boards here and especially this Corporation has been made in this House and with no effect

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: There has been a demand in some quarters for some time.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that Government propose to appoint a Committee to go into the question of having a Corporation in Delhi?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: That does not arise out of this question

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: It does. If the District Board has to be democratised it may have something to do with it

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question

PROVISION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF RETRENCHED OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE

479. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state

(a) how many officers of the (i) Indian Army, (ii) Indian Navy (iii) Air Force, have been retrenched since the close of the war,

(b) the number of Europeans and Indians retrenched, separately, and

(c) what provision has been made for the unemployed Indian Officers and how many of them have been rehabilitated?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The number of officers demobilised since the close of the war in the three services is as follows

Indian Army	19,182
Royal Indian Navy	1,820
Royal Indian Air Force	240

(b) The number of Europeans and Indians demobilised in the three services is as follows

	Indian	European
Indian Army	4,208	14,974
Royal Indian Navy	557	1,083
Royal Indian Air Force	240	Nil

(c) The Resettlement and Employment machinery set up by the Labour Department caters for all demobilised Service personnel—officers and other ranks. Appointment Branches have been set up at the nine Regional Employment Exchanges in the country to deal with demobilized officers of the Armed Forces. The Central Employment Exchange circulates to Government Departments and private employers fortnightly lists of Services personnel seeking higher grade appointments. Officers still in the Service but likely to be released in the near future send their names for inclusion in these lists.

Released officers are eligible for reserved vacancies under the scheme for advanced studies abroad and for Short-Term Commissions in the Armed Forces.

Up to the 30th September, 1946, 512 officers were placed in employment of whom the majority were Indians. It is not possible to give the exact figure of Indian officers without a detailed enquiry which will take time.

Seth Govind Das: Is there any definite scheme for demobilisation of the remaining European army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: There is a definite scheme for the demobilisation of officers according to the age and service groups.

Seth Govind Das: By what date can it be expected that no European officer in the army will remain in this country?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That will be covered by the announcement which I referred to earlier in the morning.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Was there any principle followed for determining the ratio of release as between Indians and Europeans?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No ratio is followed. Both are treated exactly in the same way in the matter of releases.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: How is it that in the Royal Indian Air Force the number of Indian personnel demobilised is 240 whereas there was no European demobilised?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: For the simple reason that in the Royal Indian Air Force there are no British officers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that if some people had to be demobilised, Europeans alone were not demobilised, in view of the fact that the army is in India and not in Europe?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not follow the Honorable Member's question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that when demobilisation was being decided upon and some people were demobilised Europeans alone were not demobilised?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: As I explained on another occasion in this House the Indian army is on a voluntary basis and we cannot keep people in the army against their wishes. Those who are due for demobilisation and those who wish to be released cannot be retained in the armed forces against their will. As regards others there are schemes for granting permanent and short service commissions, but surely it is not suggested that every officer who wishes to continue should be given a permanent commission irrespective of his suitability for the purpose.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member why is it that the absence of permanent commissions with respect to Europeans makes a difference in the matter of demobilisation?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: As I said there are no European officers in the Royal Indian Air Force and the question of demobilising them does not arise.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If they are not permanent commissioned officers they may be sent out, call them by whatever name you like. My question is why should they not be sent out, if they are not permanent commissioned officers in preference to Indians who hold permanent commissions and who are there already?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: As regards Indian officers, I have explained that already As I said, nobody can be retained against his will in the armed forces and the Government must have the right of selecting the right type of men for the grant of permanent commissions

Sri. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have Government made it impossible for Indians to continue

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Absolutely not, Sir

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then, why are they anxious to go away from the armed forces without serving their own mother country?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I think the Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. Government are most anxious that as many Indian officers as possible should be retained in the post-war forces

Mr. Manu Subedar: How will the Honourable the Defence Secretary explain the fact that when Indian officers running into thousands have been demobilised and are being sent away, the Army Department is actually recruiting 2,800 Britishers to the officers' posts in the Indian army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The number of Indian officers demobilised from the Indian Army is only 4,208. Probably what my Honourable friend refers to is the scheme of secondment of British officers in jobs, for which suitable Indian officers are not available at the present moment. There is no intention of granting a permanent commission to any non-Indian in future.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I have raised this point before in this House. Men are sent away after good service of several years. Why could they not be accommodated in the ranks instead of recruiting British officers for secondment?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The secondment scheme applies only to those cases in which Indian officers in sufficient numbers are not forthcoming or in which technical qualifications are necessary. As regards Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers Government are considering a scheme of giving training to the existing officers who might like to continue in the future armed forces, with a view to absorbing a large number of them in the three Services.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that Indian officers in large numbers are willing to continue in the armed forces, may I ask the Honourable Member if Government is considering proposals to attract larger number of Indians to continue in the armed forces by giving them additional facilities or improving their prospects, so that they may continue in the services?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not accept the suggestion that the pay prospects, etc., offered to Indians in the army and the other two services are not adequate.

Seth Govind Das: Are the prospects for both Europeans and Indians the same?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Absolutely the same, except in the matter of what we call the Indian service allowance which is in the nature of overseas allowance and an allowance for service with Indian troops.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the cause of Indians getting away in such large numbers?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Indians are not going away in large numbers. I said that a large number of people have been given permanent commissions and that there was a scheme offering short service commissions. It was announced only the other day that 2,000 short service commissions would be given. It is hoped that in this way it will be found possible to retain in the services many of the existing officers after suitable training.

PAYMENTS MADE OUT OF THE ACCUMULATED STERLING BALANCES OF INDIA

480. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the details of

(a) the amount of sterling balances of India which is accumulated overseas;

(b) the amount out of the said accumulation which has been spent on payment on consumer goods imported in India,

(c) payment for scholarships of the Indian students sent abroad for higher or specialised studies, and

(d) import of capital goods?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) The sterling balances according to the Reserve Bank's return for the 1st November 1946 amounted to £1218½ million or Rs 1,625 crores

(b) and (d) The sterling balances are a running account and consist of the surplus arising from India's favourable balance of payments as well as direct payments by H M G. Payments for imports are normally met by banks out of the foreign exchange earnings arising from their purchases of export bills. It is only to the extent that such payments cannot be met out of the proceeds of exports, that banks buy sterling from the Reserve Bank. It is therefore impossible to say to what extent any particular item is paid out of accumulations of sterling or out of the proceeds of current exports. It is only to the extent that the value of imports into India exceeds exports from India that payment for the latter will be met out of sterling previously accumulated.

Separate figures for amounts of sterling spent on imports of consumer goods and capital goods are not readily available. For the total amounts spent on imports, I would invite a reference to the monthly accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India.

(c) Information regarding the total amount expended on the overseas scholarships scheme is not readily available. The estimated expenditure as provided for in the Budget Estimates is rupees ten lakhs for 1945-46 and Rs 55 lakhs for 1946-47.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that recently all sorts of imports are increasing even of such goods as are produced in India?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I would request the Honourable Member to refer his question to the Commerce Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the importance of Government having full information as to current trade transactions, capital movements and speculative movements of exchange, will the Honourable Member exercise the powers which this House has given to him yesterday and direct that each bank must collect the reason for the purchase of sterling or any other currency from every body who purchases it and give it to the Reserve Bank?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: After the Foreign Exchange Bill is passed and becomes law, the matter will be considered.

Seth Govind Das: With reference to part (c) of the question, may I know whether the students sent abroad are having practically the same degrees which they are having in India or even lower degrees, and in that case will the Government think it advisable not to send students for the same degrees or lower degrees, so that our sterling balances may not dwindle?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Here again I will have to refer the Honourable Member to the Education Department.

Mr. Tamisruddin Khan: Can the Honourable Member tell us how much sterling balances accumulated in the course of the current year?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I must have notice of that question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, whenever any payments which have to be made outside are not able to be adjusted by ordinary foreign exchange or our surplus balances, and merchants go to the Reserve Bank for sterling, the Reserve Bank watches if they are sterling balances or the sterling is required for ordinary consumers goods and are not frittered away when capital goods are required from that country?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The Reserve Bank has to make exchange available whenever an import license is produced.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it for all kinds of goods? Has the bank no discretion to refuse to pay in case particular kinds of commodities are unnecessarily brought to this country?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The Reserve Bank has no discretion in the matter it would be for the Commerce Department to exercise any discretion, if they wish

Seth Govind Das: Under these circumstances, will the Government keep separate accounts of the imports of consumer goods and capital goods, so that we may be able to check and decide whether we should stop consumer goods and utilise our sterling balances for the capital goods?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I am afraid it is difficult to keep an account like that

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if there is any definition by which you can differentiate between consumer goods and capital goods?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend is an expert at these things and he knows it

INFLATIONARY CURRENCY POLICY

481. *Seth Govind Das. (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what steps the Interim National Government propose to take to stop the present inflationary currency policy?

(b) Do Government propose to withdraw the excess money at present in circulation in the market?

(c) Is it proposed to stabilise the prices at a reasonable and healthy level by initiating and following a sound fiscal policy?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Currency has been decreasing rather than increasing in recent months, but Government are aware that inflationary tendencies persist. They are continuing the various anti-inflationary measures initiated by the previous Government and are considering further measures.

(b) Government's anti-inflationary measures include the absorption of the surplus purchasing power by maximum borrowing, small savings campaign etc., and Government are continuing these measures.

(c) Yes, Sir

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered that if they go on borrowing at reduced rates they are causing inflation in the values of older securities?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: That is a matter of opinion

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered that the volume of borrowing which they can pick up from the market reduces as you go on reducing the rates of interest, and will Government revise their policy in this direction?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: No. I am afraid I cannot accept the contention of the Honourable Member

USE OF PERSIANISED URDU IN BROADCASTING HINDUSTANI NEWS BULLETINS BY THE ALL-INDIA RADIO

482. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) whether Government are aware of the great resentment prevalent in the Hindi speaking population all over the country on account of the use of the highly Persianised Urdu in broadcasting of the Hindustani News Bulletins by the All-India Radio,

(b) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to introduce the common men's Hindustani as the medium for these broadcasts, and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the broadcasting of the News Bulletins in Hindi and Urdu separately?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c) The whole question is at present under my active consideration

Mr. M. B. Masani: With reference to part (a) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware, that there are other sections of the people who take the view that the very simple Hindustani used in the All-India Radio bulletins is a great contribution to the building up of a common national language and that those sections do not share my Honourable friend's resentment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That is a part of the general question which is under consideration

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that the programme which is broadcast in Hindi contains so many Sanskrit words that even most of the Honourable Members here would not be able to follow it?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The whole question is being considered and nothing can be said at present

- **Pandit Balkrishna Sharma:** May I know whether the Honourable Member is aware of the immense amount of dissatisfaction that has been caused by the anti-Hindi policy of the All-India Radio?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government is aware of the complaints received on both sides

INVITATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO ADMIRAL C B BARRY, DIRECTOR
GENERAL DESIGNATE OF NAVAL DOCKYARD

483. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether Admiral C B Barry, Director-General Designate of Dockyards of the Royal Navy, has been invited by the Government of India on any Special Mission to Bombay?

(b) If so, what is that Mission? If not, on whose behalf is he coming?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir

(b) Vice Admiral G B Barry happened to be passing through India en route to Ceylon. During his stay in Bombay he paid a visit to H M I Dockyard. There is no special significance attaching to this informal visit

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RUPEE AND STERLING

484. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the latest constitutional and financial relationship between the Rupee and Sterling?

(b) When will the Rupee be delinked from Sterling?

(c) What is being done to achieve this delinking?

(d) When will India's membership of the Empire Dollar Pool be terminated?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) The constitutional and financial relationship between the rupee and the sterling is as set forth in Sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to part (a) of Mr Manu Subedar's Starred question No. 87, on the 30th October, 1946

(c) The matter is under consideration

(d) The question is linked up with the sterling balances and it will be desirable to deal with it during the negotiations for the settlement of these balances

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When are these expected to commence?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I have made a statement before on this matter. The negotiations will be started earlier than my Honourable friend thinks

WAR COMPENSATIONS TO INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES

†485. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please refer to the reply to starred question No. 1896, dated 27th March 1945, relating to King's prerogative to stop War Compensations in respect of certain Indian personnel of Indian Forces, and state if the promised statement

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

has since been laid on the table? If so, on what date? If not, when do Government propose to lay the same on the table?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Yes, Sir. The statement was laid on the table on the 21st January, 1946.

(CANCELLATION OF FIRE ARMS LICENCES IN DELHI PROVINCE)

486. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the names of the persons whose fire-arm licences were cancelled in the Province of Delhi from the 9th August, 1942, to the 15th October, 1946?

(b) Is it a fact that most of the licences were cancelled on the ground that no ammunition was purchased or consumed by the licensees?

(c) There appears to have been no request to licensees to use ammunition requested all licensees to use ammunition very sparingly in view of the shortage of supply?

(d) Do Government propose to renew all such licences which had been cancelled on the ground that licensees did not buy or consume any ammunition?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) The information has been called for and will be laid on the table when received.

(c) There appears to have been no request to licensees to use ammunition sparingly.

(d) The matter is engaging my attention.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I bring to the notice of the Honourable Member and know from him whether his attention has been drawn to a general order passed by the district authorities saying—"As he has not purchased any ammunition after the 27th October 1941, it is evident that he does not need the weapon for which he will now obtain a good price by sale. I, hereby under clause (a) of section 18 of the Indian Arms Act, 1878, cancel the license?" Is it a fact that under this order about 300 or 400 licenses have been cancelled during this period?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As many as 174 licenses have been cancelled under this clause (a) of section 18 of the Arms Act which gives power in this behalf.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that out of these 174 licenses that were cancelled, a large majority—perhaps 90 per cent—of these licenses were of such persons who belonged to one particular community?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not aware of the fact, I want notice.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will he kindly inquire into the matter and place the information before the House?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Inquiries will be made.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Member please tell the House if he is aware of the fact that the clerk in charge of issuing licenses was authorised to collect commission on the sale of war bonds and such licensees, who bought war bonds during the period and paid commission to him got their licenses renewed?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not aware of the fact.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries into this matter too?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If the information is required, inquiries will be made.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is lot of complaint that suitable ammunition is not available in the licence depots in Madras?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question refers to Delhi and not to outside provinces

FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR EXPANSION OF DELHI

487. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Delhi Government has prepared a five year plan for the expansion of Delhi? If so, do Government propose to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: Certain information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the Honourable Member as soon as complete information is available

*** OFFICERS OF THE LANDS, HIRINGS AND DISPOSALS SERVICES IN INDIA**

488. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a list of officers of the Lands, Hirings and Disposals Services in India together with their full particulars?

(b) What is the number of Indian officers in the Lands, Hirings and Disposals Services in India?

(c) How many Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and Deputy Assistant Directors (barring those recruited from the Lands and Cantonment Department) are fully conversant with the application of Land Acquisition Acts in India, and Defence of India Rules and can read and understand revenue records to appraise of the correct position of all leased hired requisitioned and acquired lands and buildings?

(d) Do Government propose to take early steps to appoint qualified Indians to higher appointments in the Lands, Hirings and Disposals Services in India?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) A list is laid on the table

(b) 65 of a total of 181

(c) All Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and Deputy Assistant Directors are fully conversant with the application of the Land Acquisition Act in India, and with the sections of the Defence of India Rules governing the acquisition and requisition of property

Ability to read and understand revenue records is not considered essential. These records are kept by District Officers who have been given additional staff, paid from Defence Services Estimates for work connected with requisitioning, and any information required by Lands, Hirings and Disposals Service is obtained from the District Officer concerned

(d) The claims of qualified Indian officers to higher appointments will be duly considered along with those of others in the Service.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why it was found necessary for the Defence Department to import Englishmen from England for doing derequisitioning after the war ceased and whether they did not find any suitable men in this country to do this work?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Because the requisite number of Indians possessing the required technical qualifications were not available. That is why a number of officers had to be brought out from England. I may add that advertisements appeared both in India and in the United Kingdom about the same time offering almost similar terms with certain changes

Mr. Manu Subedar: Did the Government consider, when importing these men, that these men coming from abroad know nothing of this country's geography, customs, laws or even manners in dealing with Indians and may I know why the Defence Department considered it necessary still to continue them when derequisitioning has already proceeded to some extent?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Government have asked the Secretary of State not to make any further recruitment for this service

Seth Govind Das: Is there any possibility of sending away very soon those who are already there?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Their contract is for three to five years and as soon as their work is over, they will go back

Mr. Manu Subedar: Did Government anticipate that derequisitioning will take three to five years, since most of these men were brought out after the stoppage of hostilities?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am not in a position to say when derequisitioning will be completely over

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who were the people who were in charge of recruitment, were they Englishmen or Indians?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Defence Department

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does that mean that the Defence Department is fully Indian today?

(No reply)

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is this Bill the result of these derequisitioning officers?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The results of the efforts of the officers will be noted in the debate on the Bill which is before the House and which will be resumed after the question hour

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: The Honourable Member referred to three to five years contract. Is there not the usual clause for the termination of the contract by three months notice on either side?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I must ask for notice of that question

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask whether these are military men or civilians?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Neither!

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: A large number appointed by the Secretary of State are civilians

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What particular qualifications were insisted on in the case of the men appointed?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: If the Honourable Member desires I can give some of these qualifications. Degree in Estate management, Cambridge or London University, Fellowship, Membership, Associateship, Professional Associateship of Institutions of Chartered Surveyors or Land Agents, Fellows, Members or Associates of Institutions of Auctioneers; officers possessing degrees in Engineering, Civil Mechanical, Structural or Electrical and so on

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Most of these are auctioneers and house agents imported from England. If so, may I know why Indian house agents and auctioneers were not given emergency commissions?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: All officers are not of the category to which my Honourable friend refers. As I said earlier in this House, advertisements for these posts were inserted in the Press both in India and the United Kingdom.

PERMANENT LOCATION IN DELHI OF THE OFFICES OF AUDITOR GENERAL, DIRECTOR OF RAILWAY AUDIT AND ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

489. ***Sri N. Narayanamurthi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that the offices of the Auditor General, the Director of Railway Audit, and the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs were permanently located in Delhi before the War?

(b) Is it a fact that on account of shortage of accommodation in Delhi, these offices were moved to Simla on the distinct understanding that they would be brought back to Delhi after the termination of the War?

(c) Are Government aware that the climate of Simla does not generally suit the staff of these offices and in consequence quite a good number of the members of the staff of these offices have fallen victims to such diseases as asthma, bronchitis, gout and rheumatism?

(d) Is it a fact that at the time of transfer of the above offices to Simla, the staff of these offices was given assurance by Government that their liens on Government residences occupied by them before transfer will be preserved till such time as they come back to Delhi? Is it a fact that subsequently Government removed the liens? If so, do Government propose to grant the liens again?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Yes

• (b) Yes

(c) The Auditor General has received representations from the staff of these offices regarding the severity of the winter in Simla and has dealt sympathetically with individual requests for transfer on grounds of illness attributed to the climate

(d) Yes

It was decided that it was in the interests of public policy to abolish all suspended liens

The revival of suspended liens will upset all the present allotments and it is not proposed to revive them

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO MINT WORKERS IN BOMBAY

490. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Mint workers in Bombay were refused payment of an additional dearness allowance of Rs 3 p m for the period from 1st July to 31st December, 1944, on the ground that, while H M I Dockyard workers received dearness allowance based on the basic pay only, the Mint workers received it based on total emoluments that is, pay plus overtime etc., and that the Bombay Mint workers, therefore, receive more dearness allowance than the Dockyard workers,

(b) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Mint workers Union represented that, during the period for which the additional dearness allowance of Rs 3 was sanctioned, the Bombay Mint workers actually received less dearness allowance than the Dockyard workers, and

(c) whether Government propose to pay the said Mint workers the arrears of dearness allowance at the rate of Rs 3 p m for the period from 1st July to 31st December, 1944?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes Sir

(c) No, Sir

Miss Maniben Kara: Are the Government aware that the cost of living in Bombay has gone up to 260 and in view of the cost of living may I know whether the Government consider, that the mint workers are not entitled to the dearness allowance as demanded by the Mint Workers Union?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The matter is under the consideration of the Government

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask when the Government has paid arrears to all the other Government employees why the arrears are not being paid to the mint workers? What is the reason?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The point is this—that the Government refused the concession asked for for the reasons that had been stated by the Honourable questioner herself. As for the ground urged in part (b) of the question, Government are not prepared to agree to the extra Rs 3 dearness Allowance from July to December 1944, because all these years the mint workers

drew dearness allowance on the basis of total emoluments and must have therefore drawn in the aggregate much more dearness allowance than the R I N dockyard workers

Miss Maniben Kara: In view of the fact that the Government do not necessarily follow the policy that they followed all these years and in view of the fact that the cost of living has gone up and they are already paying dearness allowance to the other departments of the Government of India, why should there be any difference in policy as far as the mint workers are concerned?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It means opening the whole question. As the Honourable Member is aware, there is the Pay Commission which is in session and we must await the report of that Commission

Miss Maniben Kara: Do I take it that this question of the dearness allowance to be paid to the Mint workers as represented by the Mint Workers Union will be considered by the Pay Commission?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Not the old question, but the question with regard to the future and the present will be considered

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Pay Commission will consider the question of the payment of the arrears from July?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: No

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Then the question asked of the Government of India is. Why should they not pay and consider the question now instead of waiting for the report of the Pay Commission?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I have just given the answer that the dearness allowance which was paid to the Mint workers was paid on a different basis whereby they have received more dearness allowance in the past than what has been paid to the R I N dock workers

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Finance Member consider the possibility of increasing the salary of everybody in the ratio of 100 to 373, which is the present index figure, and do away with the question of the dearness allowances altogether?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I think the country should wait for that occasion when my Honourable friend becomes the Finance Member

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member if he will increase the tax on my friend from 100 to 373?

Mr. President: Next question

PAYMENT OF INTERIM RELIEF TO BOMBAY MINT WORKERS

491. **Miss Maniben Kara.** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be please to state why the Interim Relief, which is a part of the pay, has not been paid to Bombay Mint workers in a lump sum?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Interim Relief has not been paid to the men in service in July, 1945 but subsequently discharged or retired?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to issue orders sanctioning the payment of Interim Relief to all men in service in July 1945, but subsequently retrenched, or retired or discharged?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) It was decided to disburse the amount in three equal monthly instalments not only to the Bombay Mint Workers but to all Government servants affected by the concession, in order to spread the relief over a longer period, and thus avoid the danger of another step towards inflation as was likely if the whole amount was made available for circulation at one time

(b) and (c) Interim relief is admissible only to those Central Government servants who were in service on the 1st July 1948. Government is not prepared to extend the concession to others

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

REFUSAL OF PAYMENT OF EXPENSES BY GOVERNMENT TO DEPUTATION OF BOMBAY MINT WORKERS

492. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the members of a deputation of a Trade Union of the Central Government employees are entitled to expenses incurred by them while meeting the Government to discuss the grievances of the employees,

(b) whether it is a fact that members of a deputation of the H M I Dockyard Workers Union, Bombay, were paid such expenses,

(c) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, why the members of a deputation of the Bombay Mint Workers Union which met the Additional Secretary, Finance Department on the 30th March 1946 were refused the payment of expenses incurred by them, and

(d) do Government propose to pay the expenses to the deputation of the Bombay Mint Workers Union?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) No, Sir, but the Government may agree to pay such expenses where the deputation is specially invited by them

(b) Yes, Sir, because the deputation came to Delhi at the invitation of the Government

(c) Because the deputation came to meet the Additional Secretary, Finance Department, of their own accord and not at the invitation of the Government

(d) Does not arise in view of my reply to part (c)

TIME SCALE OF PAY TO TEMPORARY CADRE OF BOMBAY MINT EMPLOYEES

493. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the question of giving permanent status and monthly time scale of pay to the temporary cadre of the Bombay Mint employees having long and continuous service was discussed at a meeting between a deputation of Bombay Mint Workers Union and the Additional Secretary Finance Department, on the 30th March, 1946, at New Delhi and that the deputationists were assured that the matter will be examined carefully in consultation with other departments,

(b) whether Government are aware of the Mint Masters proposals for constituting a permanent cadre of Mint workers and regarding terms of service for permanent personnel and the selection of the cadre,

(c) whether it is a fact that the question of security service and monthly time scale of pay is being actively considered by Government, and

(d) if the answers to (a) to (c) above are in the affirmative, have Government of India taken any decision on the subject and if not, when do they propose to do so?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a), (b) and (c) The answers are in the affirmative

(d) The Government of India have accepted in principle the proposal to create a permanent cadre of Mint workers and arrangements are in train for implementing this decision at an early date

PAYMENT OF WAR BONUS TO BOMBAY MINT EMPLOYEES

494. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that War Bonus sanctioned by the Government of India to all temporary Government employees has not yet been paid to the Bombay Mint Workers belonging to the temporary cadre though others have received it long ago;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Mint Workers Union was advised by the Mint Master that the question of War Bonus to mint workers had been referred to the War and Industries and Supply Department,

(c) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Mint Workers Union repeatedly requested the Mint Master to expedite the payment of War Bonus, and

(d) the cause of the delay in payment of War Bonus to the Mint Workers, and when it is proposed to be paid?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) War bonus is payable to temporary men only on the date of discharge, whenever this may occur, in respect of eligible service up to the 31st October 1945. This rule applies uniformly to all staff whose pay is charged to Civil Estimates. Payment of war bonus has been made promptly to all Mint workers who qualify for it.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In view of the reply to part (a), this part of the question does not arise.

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN LIEU OF SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS AT CONCESSIONAL RATES

495. ***Miss Maniben Kara:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a compensatory allowance of Rs 3-12-0 p m is being paid with effect from the 1st July 1945, to Government servants in such areas where Government have not been able to arrange supply of foodstuffs at concessional rates,

(b) whether it is a fact that supply of foodstuff could not be arranged at concessional rates to certain Bombay Mint workers, while other Mint workers were getting foodstuff at concessional rates from the cheap gram shop in H. M. Mint, Bombay, and

(c) in view of the fact that the Mint workers referred to in part (b) above are since recently being given Rs 3-12-0 p m as compensatory allowance with effect from the 1st July 1945, whether Government propose to consider the payment of the said allowance to the said workers with retrospective effect, i.e., since the supply of commodities at concessional rate was made available through cheap grain shop in the Mint to some Mint workers?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Yes, Sir, subject to a pay limit of Rs 300 per mensem.

(b) Yes, Sir, but where a worker was so placed as not to be able to avail of the benefit of the concessional foodgrains supply scheme, he was granted a monetary allowance in lieu in order to bring him on a par with other Mint employees.

(c) No, Sir. I have already explained in my reply to part (b) that the benefit was made available to all Mint employees, whether in kind or in cash.

RELEASE OF INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

496. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) how many Indians are still prisoners of the Government of India (or of a Provincial Government, if any), tried by court martials or military courts for (i) contact with the Axis Powers during the war, and (ii) participation in, or collaboration with the Indian National Army, Indian Independence League and similar other organisations;

(b) the policy of the Government of India with regard to the release of such prisoners, and

(c) whether Government propose to grant remission of the unexpired portions of sentences of such prisoners as has been done in the case which has been referred to in the answer given by the Honourable the Home Member to starred question No. 68 of the 30th of October 1945?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No one was tried by court martial or other military courts solely for the reasons mentioned by the Honourable Member

There are, however, 15 military ex-I N A personnel serving sentences in various jails in India for the offences of waging war against the King, desertion, grievous hurt and murder

There are, in addition, two civilians still in prison for waging war against the King These were convicted under Ordinance XXXVII of 1943

(b) and (c) With regard to those tried by court martial, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (e) of starred question No 98 asked on the 30th October 1946

As regards the two civilians the question of their release is under the consideration of Government

SELECTION FOR THE POSTS OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS

497. *Sri V. Gangaraju: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Revenue has, in September last, advertised for about 200 posts of Income Tax Inspectors,

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have received applications from persons who have qualified for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, and

(c) whether Government propose to give preference to those applicants who have already qualified for the Audit and Accounts Service in the matter of selection, if not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) No, but an advertisement was issued by the Director of Inspection (Income-tax), Central Board of Revenue, on the 30th August 1946, inviting applications for appointment as temporary Income-tax Officers, Class II The number of posts available for recruitment was not indicated

(b) Yes

(c) As already stated in the advertisement special consideration will be given for those obtaining qualifying marks in the Indian Audit and Accounts and Allied Services examination Government cannot, however, give preference to such candidates irrespective of their other qualifications *vis-a-vis* other applicants

RESTORATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND ACQUIRED FOR WAR PURPOSES IN BAREILLY DISTRICT

498. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that agricultural lands were acquired by Government for war purposes in various parts of the District of Bareilly (United Provinces),

(b) if it is the intention of Government to restore the lands back to the tenants now when the war has come to an end and that the lands acquired are no more required for war purposes, and

(c) if the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative whether Government propose to issue necessary instructions on the point, so that the poor tenants get back their lands for cultivation purposes?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a), (b) and (c) Land for one airfield was acquired by Government in the Bareilly District

As the land was acquired, and not requisitioned, parts (b) and (c) of the question do not arise.

TRANSFER OF STATIONS OF THE ARMY REMOUNT DEPARTMENT FROM CHANAH AREA TO MONTGOMERY DISTRICT

499. *Captain Syed Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state if it is a fact that the Army Remount Department has since a long time, been keeping thoroughbred stallions in the Chanah Area (Lyallpur, Sargodha, etc.), for horse breeding purposes?

(b) Is it a fact that they have given great impetus to Horse-breeding in that area?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have recently shifted these thoroughbred stallions from Chanab Area to the Montgomery District?

(d) Is it a fact that the Chanab Area has been one of the main nurseries for the supply of first class horses to the Army as well as to other breeding districts?

(e) If the answers to (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to reconsider their decision regarding their transfer or at least a part of them particularly when the interests of breeding are already being fully met in the Montgomery Area?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Unbound horse breeding, i.e., voluntary breeding on the part of breeders which was carried out in the Chanab Area was discontinued in March 1941. A small number of thoroughbred horse stallions was, however, allowed to remain so that breeding could be carried on by those who wished to continue horse breeding on a voluntary basis.

(b) Yes, Sir. The allocation of thoroughbred stallions has helped to some extent to preserve the industry built up in the late Shahpur Area.

(c) Yes, Sir. As a result of the reduction in the Army's post-war requirements the small number of horse stallions in the Chanab Area has been reduced and stallions thus rendered surplus have been withdrawn for disposal. There has also been certain inter-area transfer of horse stallions between Chanab and Montgomery.

(d) No, Sir. The Chanab Area being an unbound horse breeding area was never the source of supply of good horses.

(e) No, Sir. The Honourable Member will appreciate that owing to the progress of mechanization fewer horses are required for military purposes and consequently bound horse breeding in the late Shahpur Area and all unbound horse breeding conducted in the Chanab Area had to be abolished. As the requirement of the Army in horses is on the decrease, there is every possibility of a further reduction in the number of horse stallions at present maintained in that Area.

ASSISTANTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT

500. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware that it was originally decided to fill permanent posts of Assistants in the Government of India Secretariat during 1942, from amongst the candidates who qualified at the Assistant's Grade Examination held by the Federal Public Service Commission in 1941, and that, subsequently, during 1942, it was decided not to fill these posts on a permanent footing during the war time, with the result that most of the 1941 qualified candidates (including those who had secured high positions) were appointed to temporary posts in which they are still continuing?

(b) Is it a fact that these Assistants, though already qualified, are being asked to sit again for an examination which is to be held shortly to fill the quota of permanent vacancies reserved for temporary Government servants?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of confirming as many such candidates as possible in permanent vacancies of Assistants without any further examination?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The position is that the Ministerial Service (Assistants' Grade) Examination, 1941, was held to recruit to one half of the permanent vacancies occurring in the Assistants' grade in the Government of India Secretariat and its Attached Offices during the period between the 1st December 1941, and the 31st December 1942. The other half was filled, as usual, by promotion. The orders which banned permanent appointments during the war were issued on the 29th June 1942. One half of the permanent vacancies which had occurred before that date were filled by candidates successful at the 1941 examination, and one quarter of the permanent vacancies which occurred after the 29th June 1942 and before the 31st December 1942 were also filled by candidates qualified in that examination in view of the fact

that they had not been warned at the time of appearing for the examination that some permanent vacancies would be reserved for 'war service' candidates. Between the 29th June 1942 and the 31st December 1942 these candidates secured five permanent vacancies. They could, therefore, have got five more permanent vacancies only had there been no ban on permanent appointments. To compensate them for this loss they were, however, given six permanent vacancies which occurred during 1943, though they had no claim to these vacancies. The candidates can therefore have no legitimate grievance. Some of the other candidates, who could not secure permanent vacancies were appointed in temporary vacancies.

(b) Candidates appointed in temporary vacancies will be required to qualify in the ensuing examinations for permanent appointment

(c) As will be evident from the answer to part (a) normally these candidates would not have got permanent appointments on the results of the examination in which they qualified. Government do not therefore consider that any injustice will be done to them if they are asked to qualify again for such appointment

SELECTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RESERVE BY THE F. P. S. C.

501. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the principles on which selections for the Administrative Reserve recently made by the Federal Public Service Commission are based?

(b) Are Government aware that senior members of the Imperial Secretariat Service who are fully qualified for holding administrative posts and are actually holding such posts have not been selected for the Reserve, whereas temporary Government servants and others who are much less qualified and whose substantive pay is very low have been selected?

(c) Are Government aware that the selections already made by the Federal Public Service Commission have created serious anomalies in the several Departments of the Government of India? What steps do Government propose to take to remove these anomalies, so that the interests of the senior and qualified members of the Imperial Secretariat Service are safeguarded?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Government prescribed the qualifications, while the Selection was made by the Federal Public Service Commission as a result of an interview. I regret I am unable to enlighten the Honourable Member on the principles which the Federal Public Service Commission adopted in making the selection.

(b) and (c) If any anomaly exists in individual cases, it is not the fault of the selection, but the effect of qualifications prescribed. The recruitment to this Reserve has been stopped under my instructions, and the Reserve will automatically disappear after five years. Anomalies if any will, therefore, be of only temporary duration. Government, therefore, do not consider that the interests of senior and qualified members of the Imperial Secretariat Service will necessarily be affected by appointment made to the Reserve.

APPOINTMENT OF UNDER SECRETARIES FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESERVE MADE BY THE F. P. S. C.

502. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that future appointments to the grade of Under Secretary in the various Departments of the Government of India are intended to be made mainly from the Administration Reserve recently made by the Federal Public Service Commission?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to increase the quota of vacancies in the grade of Under Secretary reserved for members of the Imperial Secretariat Service in order to ensure fair chances of promotion to deserving members of that service?

(c) Is it a fact that so far the names of only thirty-six persons have been announced? When do Government propose to announce the names of the remaining sixty-four to make up the total of one hundred already announced?

(d) Are Government aware that the majority of the persons already selected belong to South India? Was there any dearth of suitable persons belonging to other Provinces or communities, or the latter were not considered suitable for the Reserve? If not, why not?

(e) In view of the fact that there is no dearth of qualified Sikh officers in the permanent employment of the Government of India, why has not a single Sikh been selected so far? Do Government propose to take into consideration the claims of this minority community when the next selection is made?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No

(b) The matter is under consideration in connection with the reorganisation of the Government of India Secretariat and the proposed formation of a Central Secretariat Service.

(c) So far forty-three officers have been selected for appointment to the Reserve. It is not proposed to make further selection of officers for appointment to the Reserve.

(d) Of the candidates selected seventeen appear to be from South India. Selection was made on merit and Government have never accepted the principle of territorial representation in their services.

(e) The Federal Public Service Commission did not recommend any Sikh candidate. In view of what is stated in reply to part (c) of the question the question of appointing any Sikh to the Reserve does not arise.

HINDI AS COMMON LANGUAGE FOR HINDUSTAN

503. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government have under consideration proposals to make Hindi the common language for Hindustan? If so, how many are there in the whole of India who now speak only Hindi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The latter part does not arise.

RISE IN HOUSE-TAX IN DELHI

504. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the enormous rise in house-tax in Delhi,

(b) whether it is a fact that it has risen four fold or even more,

(c) the reason for this abnormal rise in house-tax,

(d) whether it is a fact that a Finance Sub-Committee is to sit some time in November 1946, to settle the question of fixing house-tax for the year 1947, and

(e) whether Government propose to give assurance to this House that this Finance Sub-Committee will look into the grievances of the citizens of Delhi and afford some relief to the poor?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulman: (a) and (b) The house tax in the Delhi Municipality was raised from 3½ per cent of the annual value to 6½ per cent. with effect from the 1st January 1944.

(c) The house tax was increased in order to enable the budget to be balanced and to meet rising expenses due to fresh liabilities.

(d) and (e) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Finance Sub-Committee of the Delhi Municipal Committee. The grievances should be represented to the Delhi Municipal Committee. The Government does not propose to take any action in the matter.

FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS FROM BOMBAY PROVINCE.

505. *Shri D. P. Karamarkar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state how many foreign scholarships have been awarded by the Government of India to students from the Bombay Province in 1944, 1945, 1946?

(b) How many of the above have been awarded to students from the Karnatak Area in the Bombay Province, namely the Dharwar, Belgaum, Bijapur and North Kanara Districts?

(c) In view of the educational backwardness of the above Karnatak districts, do Government propose to consider the advisability of ear-marking a definite number of foreign scholarships for students from these districts?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Apart from the 20 Overseas Scholarships awarded in 1945 and 33 in 1946 on behalf of the Bombay Government to students domiciled in the Bombay Province, the number of students belonging to Bombay Province who have been selected for the award of Overseas Scholarships on behalf of the Central Government in 1945-46 and 1946-47 are 22 and nine respectively. In addition, seven students from Bombay Province were selected in 1945 for the award of Scheduled Caste Overseas Scholarships. No scholarships were awarded in 1944.

(b) Of the 22 Bombay students selected for Central Scholarships in 1945-46, two belonged to the Karnatak area of the Bombay Province. None of those selected in 1946-47 came from that area. One of those selected for Scheduled Caste Overseas Scholarships in 1945 belonged to the Karnatak. Information is not available here as to how many students selected so far by the Bombay Government belong to the Karnatak area of the Province.

(c) The question can most appropriately be considered by the Bombay Government who are no doubt fully aware of the condition and needs of the various districts in the Province. With regard to the scholarships awarded on behalf of the Central Government, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to parts (a) and (b) of the reply given by the Education Secretary to starred question No. 1898, by Seth Sukhdev in this House on the 17th April 1946. The object of these overseas Scholarships is to train as quickly as possible high grade personnel urgently required for progress in the execution of various plans of development. Selections for these Overseas Scholarships must be made therefore on considerations of merit without reference to the area to which a candidate belonged. It is difficult at any rate to go further down than the present administrative Provinces in the allocation of these Scholarships.

NUMBER OF CHURCHES MAINTAINED FOR BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA

506. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state

- (a) the number of Churches maintained for the British Troops in India,
- (b) to what organisation they will be handed over when the British troops withdraw from India, and
- (c) the number of Churches vested in the Crown used by (i) Conformists, and (ii) Non-conformists?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (c) The agency responsible for dealing with Churches has in the past been the Provincial Governments as agents for the Central Government, and the Central Government has at present no up-to-date information regarding the number of maintained churches of denominations other than Anglican. The information has already been called for in connection with arrangements which are being made to end all ecclesiastical expenditure, and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course. The number of Anglican military churches maintained by Government is 80.

(b) The intention is to hand over all churches to the authorities of their respective denomination in the near future, irrespective of the date when British troops leave India.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS IN SECONDARY CLASSES IN AJMER-MERWARA

507. *Pandit Mukut Bhatt Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state if it is a fact that in Ajmer-Merwara, Secondary Education is being imparted in accordance with the United Provinces Code of Education, which provides a very wide choice in optional subjects for students?

(b) Is it a fact that, notwithstanding this, the Education Department is providing for only two or three optional subjects in secondary classes, with the result that no choice is left for students and that optional subjects stand on the same footing as compulsory ones? In how many schools hand spinning and weaving, arts and crafts, agriculture and carpentry is provided in secondary classes in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara?

(c) Do Government intend to provide for all these useful subjects in Lower Middle Classes in future? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) If the reference is to Middle School Education the reply is in the affirmative. Middle education of the Anglo-Vernacular type borrows both from the United Provinces and the Punjab but the whole is so framed as to suit Local requirements, and ultimately the requirements of the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, Rajputana, Central India and Gwalior to which the High School Examination in Ajmer-Merwara is affiliated. There is no public examination at the end of the middle stage in Vernacular Schools in Ajmer-Merwara.

(b) and (c) The Education Department is providing for four optional subjects, namely Manual Training, Agriculture, Arts and Crafts and Rural Science in Boys' Vernacular Middle Schools, and Domestic Science with Child Study and Hygiene in Girls' Middle Schools. Arts and crafts are taught in seven schools and Agriculture in five. Spinning, weaving and Carpentry were not hitherto taught in any of the Middle Schools. But Government have decided that education in the age group 6-14 years should be through creative activities of the kind mentioned in the question.

DROPPING OF ENGLISH AS OPTIONAL SUBJECT IN CERTAIN SCHOOLS IN AJMER-MERWARA

506. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state if Government are aware that Educational authorities in Ajmer-Merwara have dropped English as an optional subject in Deoli, Pisangan and other Kasha Schools of Ajmer-Merwara? If so, for what reason?

(b) Are Government aware that there is great resentment against this policy and that the rural population has been put to great inconvenience, with the result that a large number of students had to migrate to urban areas for receiving education in English? If so, do Government propose to provide English as an optional subject in secondary classes of all schools?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes, Sir

It was felt that the time spent on the teaching of English, which would not really be of much value to pupils of these Middle schools in later life, could be more usefully employed in the teaching of practical subjects and the mother tongue. It was therefore decided not to continue English as an optional subject in these Middle schools. This was in accordance with the considered recommendations of the Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education.

(b) The Local Administration have received a few applications asking for the re-introduction of English as an optional subject in these schools. The information with the Administration does not warrant the conclusion that there has been an exodus of large numbers of pupils from the rural to the urban areas with a view to obtaining instruction in English. But if there be such an exodus there is no harm caused. English is provided for in the Anglo-Vernacular schools of the urban areas to meet any demand for English.

ADOPTION OF UNITED PROVINCES CODE OF EDUCATION IN AJMER-MERWARA CURRICULUM

509. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Education aware that the Ajmer-Merwara Educational curriculum for primary classes prescribes a four-year course only, as contrasted to the five-year course prescribed in the United Provinces? If so, what is the reason for this distinction, particularly when secondary education is being imparted under and in accordance with the United Provinces Code of Education?

(b) Do Government contemplate to amend the Ajmer-Merwara curriculum for primary classes and bring it into line with that of the United Provinces? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes, Sir. The curriculum in primary classes in Ajmer-Merwara is based on local requirements. The Primary and Secondary Courses form two separate and distinct units. There is therefore no reason for the Ajmer-Merwara primary course to be identical in length with that of the United Provinces Code. The intention of the four year course was to induce parents in rural areas to let their children complete the full primary course in the curtailed period.

(b) In the Post-War Schemes of Ajmer-Merwara, provision has been made for the establishment of Five-Year course primary schools in accordance with the principles laid down in the Central Advisory Board's Report on Post-War Educational Development in India.

EXPENDITURE OF BEAWAR MUNICIPALITY ON PRIMARY EDUCATION

510. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state what amount the Beawar Municipality (Ajmer-Merwara) is spending annually on primary education and whether Government make any contribution to the Beawar Municipality for the purpose? If not, why not?

(b) What percentage of the expenditure on primary education is borne by the Local Boards and Government, separately, under the Code of Education, and do Government propose to take steps to provide for a requisite contribution to Local Boards in Ajmer-Merwara?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) The Beawar Municipal Committee is at present spending Rs. 18,786 per year on primary education. No contribution has been made by the Government. The Board is generally required to spend ten per cent. of its income on provision of primary education. The present expenditure of the Beawar Municipal Committee on education amounts to a little over ten per cent. It has, therefore, now qualified for Government grant, the award of which will be considered if and when an application is received.

(b) No such percentage has been laid down in case of Ajmer-Merwara so far. The question of a grant will be considered when an application for such assistance is made.

PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS FOR SCHOOLS IN RURAL AREAS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

511. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state what progress has been made towards providing buildings for schools at Government cost in urban and rural areas in Ajmer-Merwara as promised by the Education Secretary in answer to starred question No. 1913 asked on the 17th April, 1946?

(b) Are Government aware that time has come to make primary education free and compulsory in the Centrally Administered Areas and particularly in Ajmer-Merwara, where there has been a long standing public demand for the same? If so, what steps have Government taken or contemplate taking in future towards the achievement of that end as early as possible?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) A provision of Rs. 85 lakhs has been made for educational development in Ajmer-Merwara during the next quinquennium; suitable buildings for schools as far as possible will be provided for in the development programme.

(b) A provision of Rs. 18 lakhs for the introduction of compulsory basic education in Ajmer-Merwara has been made in the five years plan.

DIPLOMAS OF THE DELHI POLYTECHNIC

512. *Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state what steps have been taken to secure recognition for the certificates and Diplomas of the Delhi Polytechnic?

(b) What steps, if any, have been taken to secure employment for the students of the Polytechnic?

(c) Have the various Departments agreed to recognise the certificates and Diplomas of the Polytechnic?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari. (a), (b) and (c) Two Statements are laid on the table giving all the information asked for in detail

Statement 'A'

The Delhi Polytechnic provides courses for

(i) All-India Diploma in Engineering, Commerce, Chemical Engineering and Technology, and Architecture (full-time)

(ii) All-India Certificate in Engineering and Commerce (Part-time)

(iii) Polytechnic Diplomas in Textile Technology and Art (full-time), and

(iv) Polytechnic Certificate in Art (Part-time)

The All India Diplomas and Certificates were, till recently, awarded by Boards of Studies set up by the Association of Principals of Technical Institutions (India). The All India Council for Technical Education has decided with the concurrence of the Association of Principals of Technical Institutions (India) to take over these Boards of Studies and to re-constitute them as under its own auspices

The Polytechnic was started with the object of providing courses in Technology of quite a high standard with greater courses in Technology of quite a high standard with greater emphasis on the practical side so that qualified students could be employed in Industry with the minimum amount of additional training. Such employment depends on the gradual recognition by industrial employers of the merits of the young men trained in the institution

The following is the present position in regard to recognition of Diplomas and Certificates for which the Delhi Polytechnic prepares students —

1 *All India Diploma and All India Certificate in Engineering*—The Certificate and the Diploma have been recognised by the Government of Bengal, the latter as equivalent to the Diploma of the Bengal Engineering College. The Bengal Government have also recognised the Certificate of this Board

At the suggestion of the Chairman, Federal Public Service Commission, the Institution of Engineers (India) were requested to accept the Diploma for exemption from Section A and B of the Associate Membership Examination. The matter was considered by the Council of the Institution at its meeting in Bombay, on the 31st October, 1946, and their decision is awaited. In the event of a favourable decision, the Diploma will receive automatic recognition for recruitment to Superior Engineering Services in India

The different Departments of the Government of India concerned with the employment of Engineers have been approached also to evaluate the Diploma and make recommendations for provisional recognition

2 *All India Diploma and All India Certificate in Commerce*—The Diploma with Auditing as a special subject has been recognised by the Government of India as equivalent to First B. A. Examination and for purposes of Rule 61 (2) (iv) (b) of the Income Tax Act

The Auditor General in India has also recognised this Diploma as equivalent to a degree of an Indian University for purposes of recruitment in his office as well as in Audit and Account Offices subordinate to him if the Diploma Holder had taken advanced Auditing and Accountancy as Special subjects

The Certificate course is designed to give part-time theoretical instructions to persons already employed in Commercial undertakings, so that they could be more useful to their profession. It enables them to get into higher and more responsible posts.

3 *All India Diploma in Chemical Engineering and Technology*—Recognition of the Diploma in this subject has to come from Industrialists who have been approached for employment and training of passed students of the Delhi Polytechnic and almost all students have been suitably placed.

4 *All India Diploma in Architecture*—This course is a five year course and the fourth year class has commenced only this year. The Chairman of the All India Board has taken up the question of recognition of the All India Diploma with the Indian Institute of Architects

5 *Polytechnic Diploma in Textile Technology*—The industrialists employing Textile Technologists hold the view that as in the case of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute Bombay, the Diploma of the Polytechnic will receive due recognition when the students of the Polytechnic have been tried for some years and found useful.

6 *Polytechnic Diploma and Certificate in Art*—So far these students have completed the three-year Diploma and Certificate course and all of them have been suitably employed. The courses have recently been reorganised as five year courses and no difficulty is anticipated in regard to the recognition of these courses

Statement "B"

Altogether 106 students have qualified in full or in part. Of these 48 have been employed after having satisfactorily completed their entire course including practical training, 10 have been employed before completion of practical training, 18 are still undergoing practical training, 6 have declined to take practical training; 19 are prosecuting further studies elsewhere and information regarding the remaining five is inadequate.

The authorities are constantly in touch with possible employers and an employment register is maintained.

Detailed information will be found in the Annexure to this statement (below).

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Particulars concerning students who have completed their academic course and examination

Department	Qualifying Examination	Year of passing	Total passed out	SI II under present award of Diploma	Number Employed			Number who did not take training	Number employed not taking training	Number pursuing further studies	Number included in question available	Remarks
					Before completion of course	Not taking training	After completion of training					
Engineering	All India D. diploma	1945	13	10*		3			1	X	X	*2 paid apprentices @ Rs 100 p.m.
	All India Certificate (Part time)	1945	5	4*		1			X	X	X	*2 paid apprentices
Commerce	Government D. diploma	1943-44	61	X		X		43	X	18	X	
	All India D. diploma		N/A	X		X		X	X	X	X	
Chemical Engineering and Technology	All India D. diploma	1945	4	3		X		X	X	X	1	
	Polytechnic Certificate (Part time)	1944	6	X		X		3	X	1	2	
Architectural	Interim diploma All India D. diploma	1946	4	X		4*		X	X	X	X	*On salaries ranging from Rs 100-250
Art	Polytechnic D. diploma	1946	2	X		2*		X	X	X	X	*On Rs 75 p.m. & Rs 125 p.m.
	Polytechnic Certificate (Part time)	1946	1	X		1		X	X	X	X	
Textile	Polytechnic D. diploma	1946	6	1		X		X	5	X	X	
	Polytechnic Certificate (Part time)	1946	4	X		X		2	X	X	3	
Total			106	18		10		48	6	19	5	

CANCELLATION OF GUN LICENCES BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DELHI.

513. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi cancelled the gun licences of those who did not purchase cartridges during the preceding year? If so, what is the number of such licences, and the provision of the Arms Act under which his action was justified?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Deputy Commissioner of Delhi cancelled 174 licences on the ground that the holders had not purchased any cartridges (or had purchased less than 50) during the last five years and consequently appeared to have no need for their weapons. Action was taken under Rule 43 read with Rule 30 of the Indian Arms Rules.

TAXATION OF INCOME OF HINDU UN-DIVIDED FAMILY

514. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state if Government are aware that the inequity of taxing the income of the Hindu un-divided family as such has been pressed upon Government for the last twenty years, that many Finance Members, while admitting that there is a case worth looking into have refused to consider the question on merits at the time of the Annual Finance Bill and that on the last occasion the Honourable the Finance Member suggested reference of the question to the proposed taxation Inquiry Committee which has not been appointed so far?

(b) How much amount would it mean to the exchequer if the income of the Hindu undivided family as such was not taxed and that only individuals as in the case of other communities were taxed?

(c) In view of the fact that the Taxation Inquiry Committee has not been appointed so far and recommendation by such a Committee, if any, are not going to be made and acted upon in the near future, will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of this question being examined by a small committee of officials and non-officials before the Budget Session?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (c) The taxation of the Hindu undivided family would be a suitable subject for examination by the Taxation Enquiry Committee, the setting up of which is under consideration. I do not consider it necessary to set up a separate committee for this purpose alone.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to part (d) of question No. 829, dated the 18th February 1946.

EXAMINATION FOR TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES IN THE MINISTERIAL SERVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT

515. *Miss Maniben Kara: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the resentment among the temporary employees in the Ministerial service of the Government of India Secretariat, in being asked to appear for an examination for permanent appointment and of the various representations they have made on the subject?

(b) Is he aware that such a procedure will ultimately lead to the discharge of a majority of such employees, irrespective of the fact that they have served Government faithfully during the six years of war, under most trying conditions?

(c) What does he propose to do in the case of such employees who are discharged, as a result of such an examination?

(d) What is the purpose for asking these employees to sit for a purely academic examination, even though they possess University diplomas and Certificates?

(e) Is it a fact that even those employees who had attained merit in such examinations as were held during the war, are being asked to appear for an examination again for a permanent appointment?

(f) Is it a fact that even those who are employed temporarily against permanent vacancies due to their rank at an examination already held, do not stand any chance of being absorbed permanently without appearing for another examination, in spite of the fact that they were assured favourable consideration in this respect after the war?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) I have seen some representations on the subject

(b) The number of vacancies available being much less than the number of temporary employees in service, it is inevitable that the surplus employees should be discharged. As to how many would be discharged and when, would depend on the extent to which temporary employments would continue and the temporary employees could be absorbed in permanent vacancies.

(c) Those who fail to secure permanent employment will have the same facilities of being absorbed in alternative employment through Employment Exchanges as the demobilised war-service personnel. They would also get, subject to certain conditions, gratuity according to the prescribed scales.

(d) The examination is intended to assist in selecting suitable persons for the allotted number of vacancies from amongst the temporary employees.

(e) Yes

(f) In regard to war-time vacancies there is a definite reservation both for war-service candidates and temporary employees. Vacancies for the latter will be filled only by those temporary employees who obtain a sufficiently high rank at the proposed examination.

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS FROM ASSAM INTO COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO BENARES HINDU, ALIGARH AND DELHI UNIVERSITIES

516. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state as to how many students from the Province of Assam have been admitted during the last three years into Colleges affiliated under the following Universities

- (i) Benares Hindu University,
- (ii) Aligarh University, and
- (iii) Delhi University?

(b) Does any Provincial Government in India make any monetary contribution to these Universities? If so, what is their total contribution?

(c) Does any of these Universities mentioned in part (a) above reserve any seat for students belonging to provinces other than the province in which these Universities are located? If so, what is the quota of each Province?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Information asked for in regard to the Benares Hindu University and Delhi University, during the last three years, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The Benares Hindu University receives an annual grant of Rs. 1,01,000, from the United Provinces Government. No other Provincial Government contributes towards the funds of the University. The Delhi University receives no contribution from any Provincial Government.

(c) The Benares Hindu University and the Aligarh Muslim University reserve seats for students belonging to the several Provinces. A statement giving the quota of each Province in the Benares Hindu University is placed on the table of the House. The Delhi University reserves no seats on a Provincial basis, but students from other Provinces are admitted to the University and its Constituent Colleges, subject to the general rules of admission, prevailing.

Information relating to the Aligarh Muslim University in respect of (a), (b) and (c) is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member

Statement showing number of Students admitted from the Province of Assam to the Benares Hindu University and Delhi University

	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46
Benares Hindu University			
Central Hindu College		13	18
Science College	9	16	22
College of Technology	2	3	3
Engineering College	11	14	16
College of Mining and Metallurgy	3	..	1
College of Agricultural Research	.	..	1
College of Law	.	3	2
College of Ayurved	...	2	2
Delhi University			
St. Stephens College	1	1	..
Indraprastha College for Women	1	1	1

Statement showing quota of seats reserved for the various Provinces in the Benares Hindu University

	Engineering College	Industrial Chemistry	Mining and Metallurgy
Assam	4	1	1
Bengal	15	6	3
Bombay	20	10	2
Bihar	6	2	2
Central Provinces	5	3	2
Madras	25	12	5
Orissa	3	2	1
N.-W. F. P.	5	1	1
Punjab	20	6	3
Sind	2	2	1
United Provinces	30	12	8

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS FROM INDIA IN COLLEGES IN U. S. A. AND U. K.

517. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Does the Honourable Member for Education propose to give to private students, i.e., students who have not been granted stipends either by the Government of India or a Provincial Government, assistance in the matter of securing admission into educational institutions in America and United Kingdom, and booking of passages for their journey?

[18TH Nov. 1946]

(b) What is the number of students who have either been granted stipends or deputed on study leave, for studies in America and United Kingdom this year who have not secured admission in Colleges or have not obtained passage for their voyage, province by province?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) Arrangements already exist in the United Kingdom and the United States of America for giving to private students all possible assistance in the matter of securing admission into educational institutions in those countries and also for looking after their general welfare in the same way as is done for students proceeding on Government scholarships

The Government of India enabled a large number of private students to secure passages to the United States of America in 1945 and to the United Kingdom in 1945 and 1946. Passages to the United States of America were decontrolled at the end of last year and passages to the United Kingdom also have now been decontrolled. There is nothing that Government can do by way of assistance in regard to passages. Arrangements must be made with the shipping companies or Travel Agents.

(b) Two statements are placed on the table giving the information asked for

List of students awarded overseas scholarships for 1946-47 by the Government of India who have either not secured admission in Colleges in the United Kingdom or the United States of America or have not obtained passage for their voyage according to provinces

Number of scholarships awarded—213.

Provinces	Number of students who have not secured admission in Colleges in the U. S. A. and the U. K.	Number of students who have secured admission but are awaiting passage for their voyage
Assam . . . . .	..	..
Bengal	17 ^a	11
Bihar	1	..
Bombay	3	..
C. P. and Berar	1	..
Madras	3	6
N. W. F. P . . . . .	..	..
Orissa . . . . .	..	..
Punjab	18	6
Sind	1	1
U. P.	10	4
Delhi	1	..
Bhopal . . . . .	..	1
Jamnagar	1	..
Jaipur	1	..
Kanauli	1	..

Provinces	Number of students who have not secured admission in Colleges in the U. S. A. and the U. K.	Number of students who have secured admission but are awaiting passage for their voyage
Kashmir		1
Mysore	4	2
Travancore	1	1
Total	63	33

NOTE.—In addition, seven students have been selected in 1946-47 for advanced studies in Australia. Out of this number, two have already left and the remaining five have been admitted and are required to reach in Australia either towards the end of January 1947 or middle of Feb 1947.

Number of candidates selected in 1946 by the Provincial Governments including sponsored Students and Deputations who have not so far been able to proceed abroad for lack of admission or passage

Serial No.	Province	Number of candidates selected	Number of candidates who have not secured admission	Number of candidates who have secured admission but have not sailed
1	Assam	22	16	5
2	Bengal	72	53	5
3	Bihar	24	5	3
4	Bombay	61	38	13
5	C. P. & Berar	25	13	5
6	Madras	55	30	5
7	N. W. F. P.	6	2	1
8	Orissa	25	12	4
9	Punjab	39	20	3
10	Sind	13	10	3
11	U. P.	35	25	6
	Total	378	224	51

OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE OR ON THE LISTED POSTS SERVING IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

512. *Sreejati Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state as to how many Officers formerly belonging to the Provincial Civil Service or to the listed posts in different provinces are now working in the Secretariat of the Government of India as Secretaries, Under Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries?

[13TH Nov 1946]

(b) Is it a fact that no such officer has up-till now been recruited from the province of Assam, for service in the Secretariat of the Government of India? If so, do Government propose to give the Assam Officers a chance?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A statement containing information in respect of officers of and above the rank of Under Secretary is placed on the table of the House. Information in respect of Assistant Secretaries is being collected and will be furnished when it is complete.

(b) There is no such officer from the province of Assam in the statement referred to above. I would, however, explain that these posts are not filled on a territorial basis.

Statement showing the names and particulars of P. C. S. officers holding posts of Under Secretary and above in the Government of India Secretariat

Names of officers	Provinces to which they belong	Appointments held
1. Khan Bahadur Itaat Hussain	Central Provinces	Deputy Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department.
2. Mr. G. P. Bhutt	Central Provinces	Under Secretary, Defence Department.
3. Mr. Sant Ram Maini	Punjab	Under Secretary, Food Department.
4. Khan Bahadur Saryd Ahmad Ali	United Provinces	Deputy Secretary, Home Department.
5. Rai Bahadur H. K. Mathur	United Provinces	Deputy Secretary, Food Department.
6. Mr. H. J. Stooks	Madras	Deputy Secretary, Home Department.
7. Mr. E. U. Damodaran	Madras	Under Secretary, Defence Department.
8. Rai Sahib P. N. Mahanti	Bihar	Under Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department.
9. Rai Sahib N. B. Chatterji	Bihar	Under Secretary, Works, Mines and Power Department.
10. Rai Bahadur N. C. Ray	Bihar	Deputy Secretary, Legislative Department.
11. Mr. B. G. Murdeshwar	Bombay	Deputy Secretary, Legislative Department.

DEPUTATION OF C. I. D. OFFICERS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVINCES FOR DETECTION OF CASES OF CORRUPTION, ETC.

519. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) how many C. I. D. Officers attached to the Central Government were deputed in the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 to different Provinces to detect cases of corruption and misappropriation by Government servants,

(b) the number of cases sent by them for trial in each Province,

(c) the number of cases ending in conviction, and

(d) the total expenditure incurred by the Government of India on such deputations?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) None but a Special Police Establishment was created by the Government of India in 1943 for the detection and investigation of cases of bribery and corruption in which employees of the Central Government and their contractors were involved. The staff was not posted by provinces. The total strength of investigating officers was 58 in 1944, 58 in 1945 and 56 in 1946.

(b) and (c) Records of trials and convictions are not maintained by provinces. The total number of cases sent up for trial, including those reported for departmental action, up to 30th September, 1946, was 904. Of these 488 ended in convictions or departmental action and 124 cases are still pending.

(d) The total expenditure on account of the special police staff was Rs 6,50,000 in 1944-45 and Rs 8,75,000 in 1945-46. The provision made for the year 1946-47 was Rs 10,11,000 of which about Rs 4,53,000 was spent up to the end of September, 1946.

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL-NUTS

520. *Sreejith Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the total Excise Duties levied on betelnuts in each Province from the 1st April to the 30th September, 1946? How much of this was levied on uncured betelnuts?

(b) Is he aware that levy of this tax has caused great hardship in Provinces where betelnuts are not cured, particularly in Assam where the incidence of tax on growers comes to nearly five times the land revenue paid by them? If so, do Government propose to abolish the imposition of tax on uncured betelnuts?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Information regarding the amount of Excise Duty collected on betelnuts in each Province during the period 1st April to the 30th September 1946 is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course. The Excise is levied only on betelnuts which are cured within the meaning of Section 2(c) of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

(b) Representations to this effect have been received from Assam. The duty is intended to fall on the consumer and not on the producer. The difficulties experienced by the latter can be overcome not by the abolition of the duty but by an improvement in his bargaining position *vis-a-vis* the middlemen. For this purpose a grant of Rs five lakhs a year has been made and special measures to secure a fair price to the betelnut grower for his produce are at present under active consideration.

RETIREMENT OF OFFICIALS ON FULL PENSION AFTER SERVING 25 YEARS

521. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether in view of unemployment Government propose to consider the question of retirement of all those officials who have put in 25 years of service with full pension benefits?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No Sir.

WITHDRAWAL OF EXTENSIONS GRANTED TO OFFICIALS

522.*Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether extension granted to the officials already in service will be withdrawn to provide employment for the younger generation?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As a measure of unemployment relief I doubt whether the advantage of such a step would be appreciable. Apart from this it is not possible for Government to terminate employment in such cases before the expiry of the stipulated period save for disciplinary reasons or unless there is a specific clause for earlier termination. I am, however, prepared to ask Departments to examine the case of such persons with a view to termination of their service where possible and where continuance of employment is not essential in the interests of public service.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO PENSIONERS

68. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether any demand has been made on Government to give additional dearness allowance to those in receipt of pensions by Government of India as well as by Provincial Governments?

(b) If so, have Government considered this matter at all?

(c) What are the findings of such examination?

(d) How much money will be involved so far as the Central revenues are concerned?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) There have been applications from Central Government pensioners for increases over the existing rates of pensions. Provincial Government pensioners would petition their Governments and not the Central Government.

(b) Yes

(c) Since 1943 the rates were revised twice. After the cessation of hostilities the matter was considered again and it was decided not to enhance the rates further.

(d) It is estimated that the increases already sanctioned have cost the Central Revenues an additional Rs. 127.5 lakhs.

DEMobilIZATION AND RE-EMPLOYMENT OF INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS SINCE V J DAY

69. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state how many Indian officers have been demobilised since the V J Day?

(b) How many Indian officers have been re-engaged since that time and how do these figures compare with British officers demobilised and re-engaged?

(c) How many English officers have found employment elsewhere than in Government Departments?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The number of Indian Officers in the three services demobilised or released since V J Day to the 1st October 1946 is 5,005. The figure for British officers is 16,037.

(b) It is not clear what exactly the Honourable Member has in mind by the phrase "demobilised and re-engaged", which, strictly speaking does not apply to anyone. If the Honourable Member refers to the voluntary deferment of release, the number of Indian officers who have agreed to defer their release is 3,970, while the number of non-Indian officers is 2,563. If, on the other hand, the Honourable Member means the number to whom permanent commissions have been given, the figures are for Indians 1,245, for non-Indians eleven.

(c) No record is kept of every officer who finds employment. We know of 418 British officers whose firms asked for their early release on work of national importance, but have no information regarding others. The Resettlement Office of the Labour Department have found employment for 512 officers in India, of whom the majority are Indians.

STRIKE BY THE NAVAL RATINGS IN BOMBAY

70. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state what steps have Government taken on the strike of the Naval Ratings in Bombay and elsewhere and the subsequent disturbances?

- (b) Are any trials pending?
- (c) Are any officers still awaiting trials and, if so, for what offence?
- (d) Have they been given full opportunity to bring their lawyers?
- (e) Before which tribunal will they be tried?
- (f) Has the Defence Consultative Committee gone into each case as was promised by Government?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The Government of India appointed a Commission of Enquiry to enquire into and report on the causes and origin of the mutinies in the R.N. at Bombay and other places in February 1946. The Report has been received and is at present under the consideration of Government.

- (b) No, Sir
- (c) No, Sir
- (d) and (e) Do not arise in view of answers to (b) and (c) above
- (f) No, Sir. No such promise was made by Government.

RELAYING OF ENGLISH MUSIC FROM LONDON

71. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state whether Government have attempted relaying English music from London in place of the English music given in India?

(b) Have Government attempted to relay good Indian music from one centre to more than one centres?

(c) Can this be done and, if so, what is the amount of saving, which could be effected by doing this?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c) Relays of music are technically unsatisfactory and are not undertaken except on special occasions. There are also copyright difficulties involved in relaying musical works broadcast by the B.B.C. The last portion of part (c) of the question does not arise.

TIME GIVEN TO BROADCASTS OF ENGLISH AND INDIAN MUSIC AND TALKS

72. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state how much time is given to English talks, reviews and music at each of the radio transmitting centres in India?

(b) How does it compare with the languages of the province from which such transmission takes place?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of reducing the time given for English music and English talks and increasing the time given for talks in Indian languages?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House. Reviews, by which I understand the Honourable Member to mean commentaries, book reviews, etc., are included under the heading 'talks'.

(c) The Honourable Member will notice that the amount of Western music broadcast is concentrated mostly in the four important centres of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, and the proportion of English to Indian talks is also high. There is demand from listeners, both Europeans and Indians, for English music and talks, and the Honourable Member will appreciate that in arranging our broadcast programme such demands have also to be given due consideration. I am, however, prepared to examine whether the proportions cannot be readjusted.

Statement showing the time given to English and Indian language talks and to Western and Indian music at 16 different stations of All India Radio during September 1946

	Talks		Music	
	English	Indian	Western	Indian
	Hrs Mts	Hrs Mts	Hrs Mts	Hrs Mts
Delhi	9 45	13 22	54 45	253 1
Bombay	8 13	30 12	52 10	224 51
Calcutta	7 24	15 14	32 28	193 59
Madras	11 9	28 22	26 3	233 58
Lahore	4 50	10 19	4 2	163 9
Lucknow	5 13	16 4	2 41	166 18
Tripur	2 34	30 35	2 45	147 7
Dacca	4 46	6 20	1 30	170 16
Peshawar	3 43	15 16	1 58	155 2
Total	57 37	165 44	178 22	1706 37

EFFECT OF COMMUNAL RIOTS IN NOAKHALI AND TIPPERAH IN BENGALE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT

73. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please make a statement indicating whether the activities of the Central Excise Department have been affected in any manner in the districts of Noakhali and Tipperah in Bengal, due to communal troubles, since 10th October last?

(b) Has any financial loss been suffered by the Department due to such troubles in the said areas? If so, in what manner and to what extent?

(c) How many employees of the department, belonging to different ranks, were stationed in those areas upto the date of the outbreak of troubles, and how many of them continued to discharge their duties after the outbreak? Were any reports received from any of these employees by the superior officers, relating to these troubles, directly or indirectly? If so, to what effect, and what action was taken thereon?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The information is being collected and will be laid before the House as soon as possible

SUPERVISORY ALLOWANCE TO CLERKS OF MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

74. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a supervisory allowance of Rs 80 p m was allowed to all the clerks of Military Accounts Department working in supervisory posts,

(b) whether any limit was fixed beyond which, pay and supervisory allowances were not to exceed and if so, whether this restriction was later on removed on representation made by the clerks affected, and

(c) whether it is a fact that while removing the aforesaid restriction it was not given retrospective effect, and, if so, whether Government propose to grant the allowance to the clerks with effect from the date of the original order?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) With effect from the 1st May 1948, all supervisory appointments in the Military Accounts Department were classified into three grades, according to the responsibility of the posts, and supervisory allowances of Rs 30 p m, Rs 20 p m and Rs 10 p m respectively were sanctioned for payment to clerks holding those posts.

(b) (i) Yes Pay plus supervisory allowance of a clerk in receipt of the old rates of pay was restricted to Rs 210 p m, the minimum salary of an Accountant

(ii) Yes, this restriction was later removed

(c) The restriction was removed with effect from the 1st December 1948. Normally the policy of Government is not to give retrospective effect to financial sanctions and Government see no reason for doing so in this case

DUTIES OF ASSISTANT CONTROLLER OF SALVAGE

75. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state.

(a) what are the duties of an Assistant Controller of Salvage,

(b) the number of Assistant Controllers in the Salvage Directorate;

(c) whether any Indian is there amongst them; if so, who and how many; and

(d) the rank of the Indian or Indians working as Assistant Controllers?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (b) There are three Assistant Controllers in the Salvage Organisation located at the Headquarters of each of the three military commands, namely Northern, Southern and Eastern Commands. The appointment carries the rank of Lt-Col with the following duties

(i) Co-ordination of Salvage Activities of the Navy, Army and Air Force in their Commands

(ii) Co-ordination of Salvage statistical information

(iii) Control of staff and activities of all salvage installations located in their Command

(iv) Implementation of G H Q and Command Salvage policy

(c) and (d) At present there is no Indian Assistant Controller of Salvage

REPORTS OF LAWLESSNESS IN CALCUTTA AND EASTERN BENGAL PUBLISHED IN THE *AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA*

76. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state.

(a) whether he has seen in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 18th August, Allahabad, Second Dak Edition and its issues thereafter, the reports of the lawlessness which prevailed in Calcutta from 18th to 19th August in particular; and

(b) whether he has seen in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 19th October, Allahabad, Second Dak Edition, the reports of lawlessness prevalent in the Eastern Bengal, particularly Noakhali and Tipperah?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) I have seen newspaper reports of incidents in the areas mentioned

SCHEDULE FOR FIXING OF HOUSE TAX IN DELHI PROVINCE

77. Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Schedule on the basis of which house-tax has been fixed in the Delhi Province?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement showing the rates at which the House tax is levied by the various local bodies in Delhi

House-tax is levied by the various Municipal bodies in Delhi under section 61 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 at the following rates

Delhi Municipal Committee	6½% of annual value
New Delhi Municipal Committee	6½% ditto
Notified Area Committee (Civil Station)	9½% ditto
Shahdara Municipal Committee	6½% ditto

The definition of "annual value" is given in section 3(1) of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911

POSTING OF ARMED FORCES IN CALCUTTA AND EASTERN BENGAL

78. Seth Govind Das: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the repeated outbreaks of lawlessness in Bengal?

(b) If so, will the Central Government consider the dispatch and posting in Bengal, particularly at its nerve centres in its Eastern part and Calcutta armed forces to be in readiness to take over the administration from the civilian hands and take prompt action to deal with all attempts at lawlessness?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes

(b) The Central Government have been giving all possible assistance in aid of the civil power in the affected area

POLICY OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RE FILLING UP OF VACANCIES IN IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES THROUGH THE I.P.S.C.

79. Sri N. Narayanamurthi: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to the various Office Memoranda issued recently by the Home Department relating to the future policy of the Government of India in regard to filling up of vacancies in the Imperial Secretariat and its attached offices?

(b) Is it a fact that further recruitment will be made on the basis of Federal Public Service Commission Examination?

(c) What is the policy of Government in respect of those temporary Government Servants who had been recruited through the agency of the Home Department on the basis of the results of the Federal Public Service Commission Examinations held since 1940? Are such Government servants required to take examinations once again? If so, why?

(d) In view of the fact, that these temporary Government servants have put in service for more than two and a half years, do the Government propose to consider the advisability of not calling them to sit for such examinations once again?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) Yes

(c) and (d) Government consider that it is necessary in order to ensure a suitable and equitable method of selection that all temporary Government employees whether they have appeared in the Federal Public Service Commission examinations or not should appear at an examination to be held by the Commission. The reasons for this decision are as follows

Departmental selection would not provide a common standard of selection either between such temporary employees in the various Departments, or within the same Department between such temporary employees and others who have not passed a Federal Public Service Commission examination. Secondly, such a procedure would not be fair because the proportion between the number of permanent vacancies and the number of employees who have passed a Federal Public Service Commission examination varies from Department to Department. Thirdly, the large war-time Departments were staffed mainly by men who have not passed a Federal Public Service Commission examination, and, moreover, have few, if any, permanent vacancies. The procedure

would therefore mean uneven selection as between men who have passed a Federal Public Service Commission examination and the exclusion of men who have not

BROADCASTING STATIONS IN INDIA

90. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) the number of Broadcasting Stations existing at present in India with their names and places of location,

(b) if any extension or development plan to increase the number of Broadcasting Stations has been formulated, if so, how many Stations and at what places and within what time Government intend to set up either themselves, or through Provincial or State Governments or through private enterprise, and

(c) the percentage of different communities in the total number of persons employed in the Department in its different ranks and Branches with the names of the respective Stations to which they are attached?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) There are at present nine Broadcasting Stations at Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Peshawar, Lahore, Lucknow, Dacca and Trichinopoly

(b) Plans, both long-term and short-term, have been prepared for the development of broadcasting in India. They involve the installation of transmitters of varying power at various places, and the erection of studios where none already exist. It is not possible to say within what period transmitters of different types or studio equipment will become available. It is even more difficult to say within what period sufficient trained technical staff for both installation and maintenance will be forthcoming. I regret, therefore, that I cannot give a specific reply to this question. I should add that the plans do not contemplate that, except in the States, broadcasting should be run and controlled by any authority other than the Central Government.

(c) The information asked for is so detailed and bulky that I would prefer to avoid inflicting it on the House. If the Honourable Member will indicate what is the exact point of his interest, I will endeavour to satisfy his curiosity.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

ATTACK AT DASNA ON PILGRIM TRAIN FROM GARHMUKTESHWAR

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the report published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 10th November, 1946 saying that the Railway train carrying a large number of pilgrims and returning from Garhmukteshwar was attacked by a party of armed men at Dasna at about 12 noon on Saturday, the 9th November, 1946, as a result of which many passengers died and received injuries,

(b) whether it is a fact that the driver disconnected the engine from the train and went away to Ghaziabad, leaving the train behind at the mercy of the assailants;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railway line was in no way blocked and the Engine Driver could have as well escorted the whole train to Ghaziabad;

(d) the total number of deaths and the persons injured;

(e) how many of the dead and injured have been identified, and what steps have been taken to inform their relatives,

(f) what steps were taken to provide medical relief by Government to the injured;

(g) how many arrests, if any, have been made so far in this connection;

(h) whether the Railway authorities informed the District Police to send ample police force to protect the waylaid passengers:

(i) whether the Railway authorities made any arrangements for food, shelter and conveyance of the passengers who were so stranded,

(j) what steps Government have taken to restore the property of the passengers which was left behind in the Railway train, and

(k) whether Government propose to compensate the passengers for the losses incurred by them due to this incident, if not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes, but preliminary enquiries made by the railway authorities reveal that it was not a case of passengers in the train being attacked by a party of armed men. There was a scuffle on the platform between some of the passengers in the train and a party of milk vendors who were attempting to board the train. The main disturbance however apparently took place later near the outer signal of Dasna Station in the direction of Ghaziabad after a number of passengers had left the train and had started walking along the railway line towards Ghaziabad.

(b) Yes, the Driver uncoupled the engine and drove it to Ghaziabad, it is stated that he did this in the interests of the passengers and the railway in order to bring police assistance which in fact he was able to do.

(c) The line was not blocked but the Driver could not haul the train to Ghaziabad without releasing the brakes which he could only do by walking along the train. Thus he was precluded from doing because the platform was crowded and the situation was out of control.

(d) and (e) The information is not available from railway sources since most of the rioting took place outside the station limits. The Honourable Member will no doubt be able to get reliable figures from the local Civil administration based on police reports submitted to them. The only definite information available in this connection is that the two Guards working the Police Relief Special Trains picked up nine dead bodies and eight injured persons. One railway postman was also killed at Dasna Station.

(f) Certain of the injured were given first-aid by the Guard of the Police Relief Train which arrived at Dasna from Hapur. The Guard was assisted in this by some private individuals who had arrived by car. Injured passengers, with the exception of one lady, were taken by train to Ghaziabad and there entrusted to the care of the railway and civil doctors. The injured lady left Dasna in a private car. Such dead bodies as were collected were brought in to Ghaziabad.

(g) This is not known to the railway authorities.

(h) Yes, a wireless message was sent immediately by the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, through the Officer Commanding, Moradabad, to the Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate, Meerut. At the same time, a message was sent over the railway Control telephone to the police at Ghaziabad and at Hapur. About an hour later, a further message was sent to the District Magistrate, Meerut, asking for police protection at all the six stations between Garhmukhtesar and Ghaziabad in view of the tension prevailing among the crowds dispersing from the mela and the possibility of trouble in the surrounding areas.

(i) Passengers who stayed at Dasna station were looked after and given protection in the Station office. On arrival of the police, the train conveying these passengers was worked to Delhi after a detention of 3 hours and 17 minutes.

(j) The luggage and other belongings of passengers who had left the train at Dasna were taken into safe custody by the police. Some was stored at Dasna and the rest was taken to Ghaziabad for safe custody pending restoration to the rightful owners.

(k) Such damage or loss as may have been sustained by the passengers did not arise from any act of omission or commission on the part of the Railway Administration or its servants, but was attributable to civil commotion beyond the control of the railway authorities to foresee or prevent. While Government have every sympathy for the unfortunate victims of the disturbance, they regret that they cannot accept any liability for compensation for any damage or loss sustained by passengers as a result of the disturbance.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is not the responsibility of the Government to provide shelter to those persons who were stranded outside the railway yard as a result of this incident?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid my Honourable friend is referring to an incident the facts of which he does not seem to be quite fully aware of. It was not outside the station yard, but it was at some distance from the station that this incident took place. The distance was something like two furlongs.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it not a fact that on several occasions trains have been stopped midway by interested parties by pulling the alarm chains and Muslim passengers have been asked to get down and then they have been attacked?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, that question does not really arise but I may inform my Honourable friend that such incidents have taken place and the Government have taken definite steps to stop this kind of interference. Railway Administrations have been called upon to disconnect alarm chains and thereby rob these mischief-makers of one opportunity of creating any kind of trouble.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Have the Government considered the question of providing armed guards to travel with the train in case there is internal trouble in the compartment between people of both communities?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We are doing our level best at the time, and in fact steps are under active consideration today to increase the armed forces which the railways ought to employ. But it is obviously impossible for the railways to provide armed guard to every single compartment?

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: Does the Honourable Member not think that it will be a very dangerous practice to disconnect alarm chains?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is much more dangerous to allow people to pull alarm chains, stop trains and murder people.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is a general order affecting all railways and all trains all over India?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is a general order, but discretion is left to the General Managers who will choose the section where they might apply this order.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Are the Government satisfied with the explanation of the Indian driver?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have already stated what information we possess at the time, and if our enquiry reveals any delinquency on the part of the driver suitable action will be taken against him.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: What is the name of the driver?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I can assure my Honourable friend that I do not know the name myself.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: There is a great deal of resentment on this point. People feel that it was deliberately disconnected and taken to Ghaziabad leaving the passengers to the mercy of the assailants.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I do not accept the implication of this question until the enquiry which we are making is complete.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Has the Honourable Member made himself sure that no property has been left behind in Ghaziabad which belonged to these pilgrims?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We have done our best.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is there any property still left?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Honourable Member may enquire from the station authorities.

DEATHS OF PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA AND SIR SIVASWAMI AIYAR

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House). Sir, may I crave your leave to refer to the passing away yesterday afternoon of a giant among men, a great Indian, one who was a Member of this Assembly for a long number of years and who was also a Member of the Imperial Legislative Council which preceded this Assembly. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya died yesterday afternoon at the ripe age of 85, and with his passing away, perhaps it may be said that a certain age in Indian politics closes. He was one of those giants who laid the foundations of modern Indian nationalism, and year by year, he laid the foundations and built brick by brick and stone by stone the noble edifice of Indian freedom. They laboured in days when they had to face enormous difficulties, they had little support and we, who have succeeded to them and we, who have in a large measure been benefited by their labours, perhaps hardly realise the conditions in which they began this work. Many of us think, looking back to those days, that those people who worked then were not quite so advanced as we are, they were more moderate, more accommodating or compromising, not realising that the environment in which they worked was infinitely more difficult than the one in which we work now. We have changed since then. We have our difficulties which in some ways are greater. Nevertheless, we function in an entirely different atmosphere and it is a little difficult to capture the air, the atmosphere of those old days. Some of us, many of us, have grown up under, what shall I say, the tradition of some of those elders of the national movement. Speaking for myself, almost my earliest memories of childhood are connected so far as Indian politics are concerned with Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. Somehow Indian politics took shape in my boyish eyes with Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's face and figure. I remember still those early days as a boy when I listened to his brilliant oratory and was powerfully moved. I remember in later years, it was 27 years ago in the Imperial Legislative Council, when I sat in the visitors' gallery listening to his tremendous oration in regard to the Punjab Martial law events. Whether one agreed with him or whether one differed from him, I doubt if there is any one in India who did not respect him, who did not admire him and who was not affected by his very lovable, kind and gentle personality. So, now, when this last of the old giants is gone, gone perhaps at the right time—one cannot expect any one to live on and on for ever and ever,—nevertheless it is something which affects us all very much, as always a break with a certain age affects one and certainly in regard to a person like Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya who has been not only a kind of father of Indian nationalism but almost a father of many of us and under whose shadow we learnt much about public service, it is a deep wrench. He was not merely a figure working and speaking in Assemblies, but as the world knows, he left enormous achievements to his credit, chief among them being the great University at Benares which he established.

Sir, I think it is fitting that we should pay our homage to the memory of this giant amongst men, whom it was our privilege to meet, to work under and learn under. May I beg of you to convey on behalf of this House to the family of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya our deep sorrow and our condolences at this unhappy event. May I also mention, Sir, the passing away in the course of the last few days of another old and respected Member of this House, Sir Sivaswami Aiyar. I would beg of you to convey to his family also our condolences.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European). Mr President, this is the second melancholy occasion during the present session on which we have found it necessary to mourn the passing of a great Indian patriot, a man whose life was dedicated to public service and who in that service displayed not only ability of a very high order, but what is still more important unassailable political and intellectual integrity. At this present juncture in Indian affairs, when the transfer of power to Indian hands is almost complete, when the process of framing the first constitution of a self-governing India is about to begin, it is difficult

for us to recapture the atmosphere of those distant days, that period during which the most active portion of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's life was spent, days when he and those who worked with him were working for what must often have been only a distant vision. But where there is no vision the people perish, and all history teaches us, that progress depends on the existence among us of people who are capable of seeing those distant visions, people capable of looking, not to the things of the day, but to the things that lie ahead. For most of us, absorbed as we necessarily are in the petty things of everyday life, our eyes are kept on our feet or on that small tract of land which we happen to be traversing at a particular time, but if progress is not to perish from the earth, there must be among us men who, while they are engaged in everyday things, will still keep their view on the Delectable Mountains across which lies the path leading to the Celestial city. It is men of that class who provide the inspiration by which the world lives and does not stagnate. It is men of that class who give rise to those ideas which alone can differentiate between men and the beasts. It is because Pandit Malaviya belonged to that class of men—and indeed ranked high in that class of men—that we regard him as a great man and that every section of this House and every party and community in this country, will wish to join together in paying their tribute to his great memory and his great achievements. And I would say that in paying honour to that great man we but pay honour to ourselves. We in this group would wish to be most completely associated with the moving tribute paid by the Leader of the House to Pandit Malaviya, and I trust that you, Sir, will convey these sentiments, not only to the bereaved relatives but to the bereaved people of India.

We would wish also to associate ourselves with what has been said regarding another well-known man, though few of us in this group had the privilege of his personal acquaintance,—Sir Sivaswamy Aiyar. In his case too we think with sorrow of the death of a man whose life was given to public service. We wish fully to associate ourselves with what was said about him, and we trust that in his case, too, you will convey our feelings to the bereaved relatives.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I knew Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya from the time I was at school and his reputation as an educationist was well known throughout my province. He was not only the founder of the Benares Hindu University but also laid the foundation of the Hindu College there which later developed into the University. He was afterwards known to me as a member of the Imperial Council and I met him occasionally before the present Montagu-Chelmsford reforms came. Pandit Malaviya did not come to the first Assembly in 1921-23 but he came here in 1924. I knew that there was a big tug-of-war in my province as well as in other provinces—there are always differences of opinion in politics—between the Swaraj party and the Nationalist party. The Swaraj party was led by a very eminent person in my province, the late Pandit Motilal Nehru, father of the present Leader of the House, and Pandit Malaviya was the leader of the Nationalist party. In spite of these differences in politics Pandit Malaviya's respect and esteem was very high in the province. His great work in the field of education will always be remembered by all educationists. My party and I fully express our sympathies with the bereaved family, specially our colleague Pandit Govind Malaviya who is the eldest son of the deceased. We want you, Sir, to convey our sympathies to him and to other members of the bereaved family.

Sir Sivaswamy Aiyar was also very well known to me in the first Assembly. He was a nominated member and I was an elected member and we used sometimes to differ. But I knew that he commanded great respect in this House and put forward views which were acceptable to all sides of the House. He was in the second Assembly also and his memory will be cherished by all those who had the honour to sit with him in those days and benefit by his great knowledge of public affairs. I want you to convey our sorrow to that bereaved family also.

Mr. President: I fully associate myself with all that has been said by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the Honorable Deputy President, and I join the House in paying my homage to the great Indian—Pandit Mahatma

DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ACT LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting). Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following Declarations of Exemption issued under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 —

- (i) No 1/2/46-Poll (E), dated the 4th March, 1946
- (ii) No 1/4/46-Poll (E) dated the 11th April 1946
- (iii) No 1/5/46-Poll (E), dated the 17th May, 1946
- (iv) No 1/7/46-Poll (E), dated the 3rd June 1946
- (v) No 1/13/46-Poll (E), dated the 27th August 1946
- (vi) No 1/14/46 Poll (E), dated the 27th August, 1946,
- (vii) No 1/16/46 Poll (E), dated the 10th September, 1946,
- (viii) No 1/14/46-Poll (E), dated the 17th September, 1946,
- (ix) No 1/16/46-Poll (E), dated the 25th September, 1946

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, may I know if there are general instructions for declaration of exemption or there are particular cases of exemption in various cases?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: These are special exemptions, I have no knowledge about general exemptions.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what general ground there is for exempting these under the Registration of Foreigners Act?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Exemptions are given on the ground that they are generally considered to be useful people here

REQUISITIONED LAND (CONTINUANCE OF POWERS) BILL

Mr. President: The House will now take into consideration the Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned Land. An amendment has been moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga Non-Muhammadian) Sir, I move

"That to the names given in the amendment the names of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal be added, and that, in place of the name of Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiq the name of Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla be substituted, and that instead of the words 'on the opening day of the next session' the words 'by Friday the 15th instant' be substituted."

The Bill may in that case be taken up and finished on Monday the 18th

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) We are sitting practically every day and then there are some other conferences. For instance there is one conference this afternoon. We will be busy every evening.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: That is the compromise we have arrived at. I may inform the Honourable Member that members of the Select Committee will find time to meet before Friday next.

Mr. President: Amendment to amendment moved

"That to the names given in the amendment the names of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Bandyal be added, and that, in place of the name of Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqui the name of Hafiz M. Ghazantariulla be substituted, and that instead of the words 'on the opening day of the next session' the words 'by Friday the 15th instant' be substituted."

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division—Muhammadan Rural).—Sir, I rise to support wholeheartedly the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Lawson, who has so ably moved that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I am very pleased to see that the Government is inclined to accept this amendment and I hope that in the Bill as the Select Committee may have it will be very carefully considered.

But this Bill is one which seeks to give powers for the continuance of military emergency powers in relation to requisitioned lands. I am entirely against giving such powers as are proposed—to those who have caused power to be taken away from them. Landlords and landowners alike have been threatened and have been displaced from their properties during the war, and now that the war is over I feel that this question is one which should be very carefully considered and at the same time it should be arranged that the properties which were requisitioned and handed back to the owners at once. During the course of the war, as we are all aware, the military officers have been threatening the owners of requisitioning their properties. Even an ordinary Lieut. or Captain would go to the owner and say, "my property is needed for the Government, it will be requisitioned." If we are to continue powers to Government to continue the same, I am afraid they will be misused again. I want an assurance from the Honourable Member that these powers will not be misused. I want an assurance that the military officers will not take shelter under this Bill and go to the landlords whose properties they want to hire, and tell them that if the properties are not given to them they would be requisitioned. I like it that this Bill provides only for the continuance of those properties, particularly lands, which are already requisitioned and are in the possession of Government. I want an assurance from the Honourable Member that no further properties—whether bungalows or lands—will be requisitioned in future.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Secretary, Defence Department). I give that assurance straightaway no fresh requisitions will take place.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I am very grateful to the Honourable Member, and I am sure this will come as a great relief to everybody concerned. But I may inform the Honourable Member that even today I have received letters from Poona and Bombay, where owners have been threatened by the military authorities. They say "if you don't give the properties we shall requisition them." I hope my Honourable friend will issue a communique on this subject informing the authorities that they have no right to threaten the landlords like that. I should welcome a statement from the Honourable Member outlining the policy of Government on this question and saying that no properties would be requisitioned in future. That will help to allay the great fears which the civilians all over India are faced at present.

Now, I come to the question of derequisitioning. As you are aware, these properties when they were requisitioned were requisitioned for the duration of the war and six months after. I want to know from the Honourable Member whether these properties have been handed back to the owners. The requisitioning orders have not been carried out properly. Most of the properties requisitioned by Government are still in the possession of Government irrespective of the fact whether they are occupied or not. Most of them I know from my own experience are being misused. The other day my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson put a question to the Honourable Member to furnish information to the House on this subject and I am sorry to say that that information has not yet been furnished. We should like to know what is the percentage of properties that were requisitioned by Government during the course of the war have been derequisitioned. From my information I find that only 18 per cent land

[Mr Ahmed E. H. Jaffer]

has been derequisitioned. This is a very small percentage, and I see no reason why Government should keep 82 per cent of land in their possession. When I deal with that question later on, I shall prove to the House that even the land which is no longer required by Government for defence purposes is being retained by them simply because most of the officers feel, as in the case of an island near Bombay, that the climate is very good and it is a good place for them to visit during week ends. This practice should stop. I am going to make suggestions later on as to how this is going to be done.

I also know that some properties in Bombay and Poona are lying vacant since June 1946. When the landlords approached the Garrison Engineer for getting the properties derequisitioned, he replied that this will be done by the end of September. It seems Government prefers to keep the properties vacant, and they go on paying rent for those properties which are not in use. When September came, they said that they were trying to get orders to the effect that properties would continue to be in their possession until such time as they pleased, and that the Defence of India Rules were being extended. I know that one building in Bombay which is in the possession of Government is lying vacant for the last six months and Government is paying 6,000 a month as rent. May I know from the Honourable Member where this money comes from? We taxpayers have to pay this amount. I hope the Honourable Member will go into this question very carefully. I do not wish to take up much time of the House, but I should like to mention one instance which concerns three thousand inhabitants of the tiny Isle of Madh in the Bombay Suburban District. I have got a cutting from the Evening News dated the 1st October 1946 and I will read a few lines in order to convince my Honourable friend that lands which are in possession of the military authorities are being misused. It says

"For the last three years many of them (this refers to fishermen)—have remained practically unemployed, living on the payments made by Government either as rent or compensation for their requisitioned properties." "Those of them who have no land or other property have to live on the meagre grant of Rs 5/- to Rs 15/- paid by the authorities as rent for their homes." . . . "Government has allowed only Rs 2 per tree per year to owners, whereas a tree, in fact, according to the prevailing rate should bring its owner at least Rs 30 a year."

A very old man there told this to the representative with which I agree that "at the time when Government is arranging facilities for the return of foreigners to their land, why are we poor people not allowed to come back to our homes."

I have also a letter from a very high official of which I should like to read extracts in which he says

"There are hardly any officers and men there and from such confidential conversation as I had with those present, I gather that the only reason why they want to stay there is because it was a very healthy place. They seem to have done a great deal of damage to the property of the fishermen; the woodwork has been broken, the roofs have fallen and many valuable trees cut down."

This is the state of affairs prevailing in a place not far from Bombay. When the question of damages and compensation will arise the usual reply will be that the question is under consideration. I suggest that when the properties are derequisitioned Government should hand over the properties at once, particularly those not required, and when this is done compensation should be paid to the owners immediately and at a proper rate.

Secondly I want to know why it should take twelve months on the part of the military authorities to think as to what properties are required and what are not required. I heard this morning from the Honourable Member's reply to one of the questions that Englishmen have been imported into India, some of whom are house-agents and auctioneers to consider the question of derequisitioning of property. Is there really a need to bring Englishmen to consider the question of derequisitioning? Have we not got people in India fitted for these jobs? Has any effort been made to see that proper people were employed in India? The only idea for employing the people from outside is to delay matters. Here the question is one of urgency and especially because there is the housing accommodation problem. This matter requires immediate attention.

In conclusion, I would like to make one suggestion. I suggest that a Non-official Board be set up in every province by Government, before which Board the military authorities should submit their cases for the continuation of these requisitioned places. If the military authorities feel that here is a property which should continue to be retained, then this Board should be the authority to decide whether a particular property or land should be allowed to be retained or not. As you know, the military authorities are interested parties. They have taken over the properties in a hurry, giving to most of the owners barely twenty-four hours' notice to vacate. They are people who wish to continue occupation of these properties mostly for private reasons. I suggest that such cases should go before this Board. This Board should be the only authority to decide whether a property should be given back or retained.

The question of derequisitioning should also be placed before this Board. If any landlord wants that his property should be handed over to him, particularly now that the war is over, and circumstances have changed, this Board should call upon the military to hand over the property to the owner. In many cases, many landlords who have been staying away from their places of residence want to come back to their original houses. But the Government says that the bungalows are required for the use of the military officers. It should remain open to these landlords to submit their cases to this Board. At present I know from experience as to what is happening. The owner goes to the authorities. He is sent from pillar to post. He goes to the Garrison Engineer, then to the D. A. D. Lands and Firings, then to the Area Commander, and then to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, and the matter takes six months.

I therefore suggest that immediately a Board should be set up which should deal with the complaints of landlords and landowners.

I hope the Honourable Member will consider my suggestions favourably.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban): I see that the House has pretty nearly agreed to send this Bill to the Select Committee, and therefore I do not want to take much time of this House. Otherwise, Sir, I would certainly have said that I am not satisfied with a Bill of this kind giving so much power to the officers. An arbitrary Bill of this kind is not at all necessary now that the war is over.

I want to bring to the notice of this House one aspect of this question, and it is this. It is not merely individual landlords and their houses whose properties have been requisitioned. There are public bodies, such as the Municipal Corporations whose lands have been acquired by this Department.

Now I want an assurance from the Member in charge who was eager to give the assurance. (Is he paying any attention?)

Mr. President: The Honourable the Defence Secretary.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: In the same way that he answered with alacrity that no further properties will be requisitioned, could he give me an assurance that the properties requisitioned from public bodies and corporations like the Bombay Municipal Corporation and others will be returned?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Of course, one day!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Not one day! But now. Why I am asking this question is for this reason. I know that a body like the Bombay Corporation is very anxious to increase the number of beds for the sick in Bombay because they want to increase their medical relief. But what is the position. A big piece of land like *Tarauay* where they wanted to have a hospital has been requisitioned by the military authorities and when they get a Bill like this the military people will say, no we do not return it. Therefore my request is that we have many Corporations who are supplying public amenities and doing useful work for the public and that their land should be returned. But to give you a definite case. What is it that the military authority want? I know that the Bombay Municipal Corporation wants to have a general public hospital on this site. If that is returned surely it will be for the good of the public of Bombay and yet according to this Bill what is going to happen? The Honourable Member in charge cannot deny that for every bed that they have had in

[Dr G V Deshmukh]

this institution they are wanting Rs 800 from the Municipal Corporation Is that correct, Sir?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I apologise, I was engaged elsewhere

Dr. G V Deshmukh: I do not know if it has come to his ears. These bodies which are doing useful work for the public and who have been put to all these disadvantages on account of war, (even if the Department has to suffer a certain amount of loss they ought to be willing to bear it), should have requisitioned properties and lands returned to them. Look at the amount of loss they have put not only to the public but all these public bodies during the war! Therefore, if bodies like the Bombay Municipal Corporation asked them to give all this equipment free they ought to be prepared to do it, considering the amount of loss that they have put all these different corporations to.

Under the circumstances, if the Member in charge is not willing to give an assurance like this, I am very glad that my friend, Mr Lawson moved this amendment, because you can see in what direction the mentality of the Department is working. Instead of the mentality working on the lines of derequisitioning and coming back to civil life as soon as possible, they want to continue in an easy way so that they can requisition and do what they like as in times of war and emergencies. What is the explanation of the Member in Charge? His explanation is that warlike conditions are going to continue. Can he tell us when these conditions are going to discontinue? The war ended a long time ago and it is no good coming before this House and putting forward such excuses that warlike conditions are going to continue. You want to make it very easy for yourself. We know that the Indian army which used to be 150,000 is going to be half a million. Does this department want to cater for this increase in the army by means of emergency measures? I think it is very unfair that they should try to make it easy for themselves at the expense of the civilian population. The Member in Charge will say that he wants more flats for their military officers, because they are going to have a larger number of officers, and therefore they must continue to have this power of requisitioning. They will come and say that they want clubs and all kinds of things, amusements and luxuries, for the increased army and therefore they want this power. I think no public body worthy of its name and certainly not this Assembly, will consent to this easy way of pampering the military department at the expense of civilian life.

There are a good many things that I could have brought to the notice of the Member in Charge. I do earnestly appeal to him that though not in the case of private landlords, at least in the case of public bodies which serve public purposes he will make it a point of giving them back the lands and buildings which they have taken over. I happen to be on the Select Committee and hope to express my views there.

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab Sikh) Sir, personally I think it is a misnomer to call this measure a law at all, because, strictly speaking, every body has the right of possessing his property and using it as he likes, and to use force in any form, may it be of law or otherwise to take the property of another person, I think, is illegal. Such provisions are meant for special purposes and the Government had the advantage of this provision for the period of the war. There is no emergency now and there is no special purpose for which they should continue enjoying that facility. It is such a long time since the war is over and yet we learn that the military department has only derequisitioned 18 per cent of the property which they had requisitioned during the war. Is it not wrong? Is not the machinery of Government moving very slowly? And does that Government which has moved so slowly deserve this treatment from us, that we should allow them to continue to have those facilities which they had for a special occasion. It is not only that individuals are suffering but great nation-building institutions are suffering on account of these provisions. Buildings of colleges, schools, hotels, corporations, municipal and district boards have been requisitioned and all those bodies are suffering for

want of accommodation and they are not able to help the public and carry on the purposes for which those institutions were really established. And in that way to carry out one purpose, you are thwarting so many other purposes in the country, and it is the duty of the Government to see that no such law is allowed to continue for a single day longer than is absolutely necessary. I think they have had enough time and if they want prolongation of these provisions, they should have it with the determination that they are going to stop their use as soon as possible.

Mr. Abdul Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs, Muhammadan Urban). Mr. President, in the language of the Secretariat I have nothing further to add to what I said the other day about this mischievous propensity of the present Government to prolong the war into civil life. The Honourable Member who is speaking on behalf of the Defence Department perhaps does not look at the civilian aspect of requisitioning. Sir, I hope the Select Committee will come out with a report that the Bill be thrown out, because we shall not have really justified our existence in this House, if we allow this kind of liberty and license to be taken with the rights of the Indian citizen. "The aftermath of the war" is perhaps a very good phrase to use but, Sir, does the Honourable Member realise that the aftermath of making this remark leads me to the conclusion that there is incompetence all over the requisitioning departments?

Mr. President the Honourable Member should realise that in blocks of flats, sometimes 10 and sometimes 12, only one was occupied and the remaining 11 were vacant when every man, woman and child in Calcutta was mad to find a room to live in. Sir, I know of a big building in Calcutta which was occupied by the Americans first and then was passed on to this Department, over which the Honourable the Defence Member presides. The owner has agreed to let it to a party but the Department has left two tables in that huge building and refuses to remove those two tables, and this is requisitioning!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Take possession like the squatters in London!

Mr. Abdul Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, it will perhaps surprise the Honourable Member that the civil and military officers who take these flats have been taking advantage of the Rent Control Act in the cities. I know that the owner of a house could not get back into his flat, because it was requisitioned for an officer who has now been transferred from Calcutta. Before going he sublet the flat to a friend of his. The result is that the owner cannot come back to his own house.

In this wonderful imperial city of Delhi full price was paid for a piece of land to the Government of India. The purchasers were told that they would not be given possession of the piece of land so long as the war was on and six months thereafter. Sir, a good many months after that I tried to get this piece of land, not for private use, but for the use of a public organization. I was asked to see the Honourable the Labour Member. I went to him and he said "I have nothing to do with it. You better go to the War Department." I went to the War Department and they sent me to some office—I forget what it was—with headquarters at Agra. We approached that office and we were sent to the Khyber Pass, near Delhi, to see its representative here. I did that. Nobody knew where this piece of land was. I took him to it. He said he would look into the matter, and the answer came back the next day that I should approach the Labour Department. I went to the Secretary of the department and he said "No, no, Mr. Siddiqi, you are mistaken, you had better go to the War Department." I went back again to the War Department. If

this is not incompetence, what else is it? I hope the Government of India will muster courage and put the army back in its proper place. This kind of intrusion into my rights as a citizen, if allowed to go on, my fear is that these encroachments under the incompetence of a government that does not think in terms of the rights of Indians, will widen they will increase. The aftermath may become the tail of a comet—uncomprehensible and immeasurable. It is all very well to talk glibly and with one's tongue in his cheek. The main problem is, when are you going to get out of the houses of

[Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]
private citizens? I do not know why a Select Committee is being set up for under the present mental attitude of my colleagues in this House, whether you have a Select Committee or whether you have the Secretary of a Department speaking, everything that comes from the official benches will go through, and the poor Indian citizen will be trampled under foot like the worm. But I hope the worm will turn, if not during this session then in the next one.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Before Friday evening!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I again suggest the Government will see to it that an Opposition is created, otherwise our moral stature, our political stature, and even the constitutional stature of this Assembly will be dwarfed and shortened and I doubt if the Constitution-making Body will be able to pull us out of the bog.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I am only reminded of a story said of an Irishman who was shipwrecked on an island and who when he met the first man asked him if there was a government, and on being told 'yes', he said he was in the opposition. My Honourable friend Mr Siddiqi, whatever the form of government, will always be in the opposition—he has an itching for it. He accuses us of joining this government and giving support to any measure that is being brought forward. I would ask him to consider dispassionately whether it is not right to place individual or self-interest after the interests of the community as a whole. I come from a small town and I know how, without any rent control order, it is impossible for anybody to get a house. Rents go up enormously and persons who have got houses to let are being represented here, are their interests to prevail over the interests of the community as a whole? Have we got out of war conditions yet? The war might not have been over normally but for the atom bomb. It collapsed on that account prematurely but war conditions are still prevailing and we are in a worse state of affairs than during war time.

It is true that there may have been excesses committed and the military may not have looked into every detail of the requisitioned buildings, the need for a particular house may not be there, but the need for continuing requisition as a whole is still there. Possibly some of these houses or buildings have to be acquired permanently. Is it not therefore necessary to have a statute of this kind? We must arm ourselves. Let us not be constantly under the impression that some other man is trying to rule us, nor am I going to say that every piece of legislation which follows in the wake of the rules and regulations that were framed under the Defence of India Act should automatically lapse or is cent per cent bad. I am not going to be a wholehogger merely because it is somehow related to the Defence of India Act. This will go to the Select Committee and the angulanties may be rounded off, it is for that purpose that we are sending it to Select Committee. I agree with Dr Deshmukh that so far as public buildings which have been used for charitable purposes or as educational trusts or colleges are concerned, they ought to be derequisitioned as early as possible. I am aware of a case where the Ramjas College here in Karol Bagh was requisitioned a long time ago and the students had to shift to private buildings, and in spite of repeated requests the military say they have put up enormous buildings and therefore they have not been able to return it yet. I want the scope of the Bill restricted. Military purposes ought to be defined. If they were requisitioned for a particular purpose let it not be open to the authorities in charge of those buildings to enlarge the scope and divert it for other uses now. If the original need no longer exists, the buildings or lands should be automatically returned.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Irrespective of the monies spent on them?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As far as that is concerned, whatever amount might have been spent and whoever spent it, it is his money and my money, and therefore if lakhs of rupees have been spent on a small building that was requisitioned, is it reasonable that this should be given as a gift? It

is not proper. If the improvement can be separated from the original building, let it be separated and the original building returned, or if the original building is so small that it can be easily acquired and a substitute can be given, let a substitute be given. In any case these are all considerations of details and they may be left to the Select Committee. Generally the grounds on which the derequisition may be allowed or requisitioned houses temporarily may be made permanent should be considered. That is all I want to say for the present.

On the other point of deficiency of houses in Delhi, I would like to say a word. Large numbers of buildings were constructed here for lodging troops coming from foreign countries—for instance the American troops. In the Canning Road I find huge blocks of buildings are lying vacant. The Americans have left. What has happened? Questions were put on the floor of the *Assembly, and an Honourable Member asked whether these Houses could not be given for the use of other officers in the civil services here, and the answer was that the Army Department would be referred to. But persons going that side have found that for a long time the doors have not been opened at all. If they were housing the armed forces of other countries, they have gone, and our own forces have not increased after the war, what then is the need for keeping them for army purposes I am unable to understand. There does not seem to be any liaison or co-ordination between one department of government and another. It is rather unfortunate that that is so. It is easy for one department to pass it on to another department. In that way I entirely agree with the observations of my Honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi. In spite of the change of government I am really sorry to see that the secretaries are still moving in the same old rut, they do not move, they do not care to know or to remove the inconveniences that people are suffering from. If lots of buildings are no longer in use, why do not the military give them over for civilian purposes? There is so much of delay in dispensing with or derequisitioning even in proper cases where buildings are no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were taken originally. In all these matters general rules should be laid down and punishments should be given to those who are indifferent or unduly dilatory in dealing with these matters.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce): How can you punish imported British personnel who have been brought here to derequisition these buildings?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, I realise the strength of feeling in this House on this subject, and out of deference to the wishes of the House I accept the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, with this addition that my Honourable friend Mr. Gokhale may also be put on the Select Committee. Perhaps the House is aware that it is not only the Defence Department which is in possession of this large number of requisitioned properties spread throughout the country. I propose this addition because civil departments of Government of which the Department of Works, Mines and Power is particularly important, have to answer for a large number of buildings which have not yet been derequisitioned.

It is forgotten that this is not a permanent measure on the statute book. As was pointed out yesterday, its operation at the moment will be automatic only up to October 1947, after which by an order of the Governor General it would be extended by another year after which by a vote of both Houses of the Legislature in the U. K. it could be extended to a maximum period of five years. So all the vehement and strong language used by some of my Honourable friends that Government were trying to encroach upon the liberties of the individual for ever was rather misplaced.

I shall indicate very briefly the progress which has been actually made in derequisitioning the properties up to the end of September 1946. Out of 10,689 properties which were requisitioned and which were in possession of Government on the termination of the war, there are now 6,353 properties still in their possession. We have therefore already derequisitioned nearly 4,800 properties.

Mr. Manu Subedar: You will take another two years at this rate

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I hope not. I explained to the House yesterday why it was that the progress of derequisitioning was not as rapid as we had wished it to be. I pointed out in particular that the strength of the armed forces was still roughly one million, that is one half of the total number of men in the forces during the war. I also pointed out that we had large movements of troops on the East and the West. The House is aware that we have large numbers of forces in overseas theatres and when they come back we have to provide for transit camps for them. We have to provide for hospital accommodation and we have to provide for a number of other things. So Sir, I am glad to notice that the House has accepted in principle at any rate the necessity of continuing powers of possession of requisitioned properties. I repeat the assurance which I gave yesterday that nobody is more anxious than the Defence Department to derequisition all properties with the utmost speed possible and with that end in view they will examine all the suggestions which have been made in the House today including the suggestion of appointing non-official Boards.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may continue his speech after Lunch. Before we adjourn I might just mention that the point of the attack was that the requisition would be permanent and even if the legislation is temporary, power is given to deprive owners perpetually of certain properties in their hands. That seems to require attention. The Honourable Member may reply to that point when we reassemble at 2-30.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch Till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, in the morning I mentioned the 1st of October 1947 as the period up to which these powers would be automatically in force. The correct date is the 1st of April 1947. I inadvertently mentioned 1st of October 1947.

I shall now briefly mention the various classes of properties which Government have been in possession of. I shall say straightaway that it was some months ago that Government issued special instructions for the release of all educational institutions and I am glad to say that out of the educational buildings which were in possession of Government on the 1st of September 1945, few if any now continue to be in their possession.

As regards hospitals, only those which are required until the strength of the defence service is decreased to a figure which will enable us to carry on hospitalisation within our own premises will be retained. I understand that only four premises are affected in the whole country.

As regards public buildings and institutions and commercial and industrial undertakings, in most cases they have been retained to accommodate the increased staff and will be released in proportion as demobilisation progresses.

The next class I shall refer to is the storage accommodation. Here unfortunately I cannot hold out hopes of very early release mainly for the reason that we have stores of the value of crores of rupees in several places in India. In addition, the army has undertaken the responsibility of looking after American surplus stores which the Government of India have purchased and for which accommodation will be required so long as the stores are not finally disposed of. As regards the residential buildings and other buildings including hotels, I must emphasise that until the strength of the armed forces is brought down somewhere near the pre-war figure, a large number of them will have to be continued in possession.

I do not wish to take much time of the House now. But I would like to make one final plea. Several instances of individual hardship have been

brought to notice on the floor of the House. I am not in a position to reply to the allegations made about these individual cases because I have not had the time to make the necessary inquiries. But may I suggest that the House might have a proper perspective in this matter? It should be realised that the number of properties involved runs into thousands and they are spread all over India. Wherever there is executive power, there is a possibility of some abuse. It is the business of this House to ventilate the grievances in individual cases and I give an assurance on behalf of Government that these individual cases of grievances will be looked into very carefully and will be investigated and, where substantiated, remedied.

Sir, I shall end by saying that in this matter the interests of the individuals should be subordinated to the larger interests of the State for which alone Government wish to retain these powers of continuing the possession of requisitioned property.

I forgot to answer the question which you asked, Sir, namely whether the properties, although the Act will cease to operate, will continue to be in possession of Government under certain circumstances. The position is that where acquisition has taken place it is of a permanent nature, and there the properties will pass permanently out of the possession of the owners. But may I assure the House that in this matter, particularly in reference to sub-clause (c) of clause 5 (3) where it is stated that the appropriate Government can require properties for the maintenance of defence services or for the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community—so far as the Central Government are concerned, I can give the assurance that these powers would be most sparingly used and only when there is no other alternative available to serve the public purpose in view.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: May I request my Honourable friend to make it clear why in addition to the ordinary land acquisition powers which Government have already got it is necessary to provide under clause 3 that lands which were requisitioned for the war period and for the war period alone may be acquired? Why this power is necessary?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I suggest that that point may be gone into in the Select Committee.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he is going to consider my suggestion that he would be good enough to set up some machinery in the provinces whereby the ordinary landlord of the property can approach the Board and have his grievances redressed instead of approaching the Government of India?

Mr. President: Now that the matter is going to the Select Committee all these points can be threshed out there.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, I wish to suggest a small change in the names of the Select Committee. I suggest that the name of Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan be replaced by the name of Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi. I am sure the House will have no objection to it.

Mr. President: The original mover of the amendment motion is Mr. Satyanarain Sinha. Is he agreeable to this change?

(Mr. Satyanarain Sinha was not in the Chamber.)

In that case, the form of the amendment will be

"That the name of Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla be substituted in place of Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan."

I think the best course would be to put the amendment like this

"That, to the names given in the amendment, the names of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal be added, and that in place of the name of Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan the name of Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla be substituted and that instead of the words 'on the opening day of the next session' the words 'by Friday the 15th instant' be substituted."

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: May I suggest, Sir, that the name of Mr B K Gokhale be included in the Committee?

Mr. President: There is the original Motion before the House for the consideration of the Bill, and there is the amendment for reference to the Select Committee. To that there is the amendment of Hajj Abdus Sattar Hajj Ishaq Seth. The question is

"That, to the names given in the amendment, the names of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, and Mr B K Gokhale, be added, and that in place of the name of Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan the name of Hafiz M Ghazanfarulla be substituted, and that instead of the words 'on the opening day of the next session' the words 'by Friday the 15th November, 1946,' be substituted "

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: The other amendment of Mr Sinha drops out. I will now put to the House the amended amendment of Mr Lawson

The question is

"That, the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Mr P J Griffiths, Mr Ahmed E H Jaffer, Hafiz M Ghazanfarulla, Mr Manu Subedar, Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Dr G V Deshmukh, Pandit Balkrishnan Sharma, Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, Mr B K Gokhale and the Mover, with instructions to report by Friday the 15th November, 1946, and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the committee shall be five "

The motion was adopted

FOREIGNERS BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Home Member) Sir, I move

"That the Bill to confer upon the Central Government certain powers in respect of foreigners be taken into consideration "

Sir, in moving for the consideration of this Bill, I do not propose to go into details of this Bill for the House will remember that in 1939 when the Registration of Foreigners Bill was brought before the House, in the debate strong opinion was expressed by several Honourable Members that a more comprehensive measure with greater powers to be given to Government should be brought in. The Home Department then took up for consideration the formulation of such a Bill. In the meanwhile the war intervened and an Ordinance was therefore passed. Now, immediately afterwards the Home Department took up the consideration of the Bill but it was then thought advisable that the Act should be limited to the period of the war and six months after. Now the period of this Bill expired in September last and again the vacuum has been filled by the passing of an Ordinance. It is therefore necessary that the measure which was contemplated to be passed and which the House generally wanted to pass should be brought before the House. Therefore this measure has been drafted embodying all the suggestions and is practically wholly or more or less in the same form as the Act of 1940. In 1939 Act, the Registration of Foreigners Act, when it was passed, provided only for the registration and certain restrictions, but it was found very inadequate. Before this Act was passed, you will remember that there was only one Act and the old one, known as the Foreigners Act of 1864. That Act instead of dealing with foreigners, probably was used or abused for treating Indians as foreigners in India. Therefore the definition was revised in 1940 and the revised definition has been incorporated in this Bill. Therefore there is no such danger of any abuse of that definition. Now, the House would like to know what are the number of foreigners in this country. It is very difficult to say because there is no proper statistics about them. Roughly there are five lakhs of foreigners in this country, of which number about three lakhs are people who are not considered foreigners, but who are more or less Indians or semi Indians, that is from Nepal and surrounding areas. Thus there are three lakhs of these people, some Nepalese, some Tibetans who are exempt from registration, then there are about 28,000 Chinese and 18,000 Afghans and one thousand Persians. The total number of European foreigners is about 14,600. Theoretically all these people would come under the Act, but practically very few would be affected. The Bill now drafted takes two additional

powers to those given under the Act of 1940. Firstly power is given imposing obligations on masters of ships and hotel keepers or restaurant keepers to give information about the movement of these people since it would be necessary to check such movements. The other power that has been given is for the determination of nationality. Where there is a doubt as to the question of nationality it is quite natural that a man may give his nationality as it suits him, and it would be impossible to wait for a judicial decision of the pronouncement of a court. It is therefore considered necessary that on the facts that may be produced Government should have power to determine the nationality of the person concerned.

Except these two provisions the rest of the provisions are all in tact. This Bill therefore should not be considered as a war-time measure on a war-time legacy. The Bill was contemplated even before the war but the war intervened and therefore the emergency was faded over by the Ordinance. But all civilised countries have some sort of legislation empowering the Government of the day to possess accurate figures of the number of foreigners, their trade, profession and calling and also about their activities in the country. It is useful both for normal as well as abnormal times. Occasionally we find these people competing with residents economically and using their talents sometimes for very mischievous purposes, sometimes some of them prove to be a danger to society. Therefore no one will question the necessity of such a Bill. As the Bill contains no new provision and as the necessity for it had already been recognised by the House I do not propose to take any further time of the House. I move for its consideration. There was no amendment received till today.

Mr. President: That will be coming after the consideration motion is put to the House.

Motion moved.

"That the Bill to confer upon the Central Government certain powers in respect of foreigners be taken into consideration."

Sjt. M. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural).
 Sir, I wish to say a few words on this. I am glad that the definition of a foreigner given in clause 2 (m) exempts the ruler as well as the subject of an Indian State. In the original Foreigners Act of 1940 the definition was such as to include the ruler as well as the subject of an Indian State. I remember that in the non-co-operation movement of 1930 and 1932 many Congress workers were arrested, detained, and deported to various Indian States, and sometimes it worked great hardship. I know of a Congress worker from Belgaum who was arrested in Poona and deported to Miraj State because his parents were born in that State. But the Miraj State authorities refused to have him because he was not born in Miraj. He could not enter that territory and he could not remain in the railway yard because it was British territory. Then he tried to get into Sangli State but the authorities there said that as neither he nor his parents were born in that State he could have no asylum there. Therefore he followed the only course open to him, i.e., he went underground. In 1935 when I was first elected to this House I brought in a Bill to have the necessary changes in this Act so that the rulers as well as subjects of Indian States should be free from the mischief of this Act. At any rate that has been done after ten years and now I am glad on that account.

Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Member is that the definition is negative. 'Foreigner' is defined as one who "is not a natural-born British subject", etc. It would have been logical to define 'foreigner as one who is not an Indian subject'. Under clause 2(a)(1) Indians are not 'foreigners' because they are natural-born British subjects, within the meaning of sub-section (1) of Section 1 of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act of 1914. In other words we are citizens of our own country because we are living in a territory which is under the domination of the British Government or His Majesty's Government and because we owe allegiance to it! That is not the foundation of our citizenship. The foundation

[Sjt N V Gadgil]

of our citizenship is that we are owners of this country and we are born in this country. But here it is otherwise. Here is an opportunity to break another link in the chain that binds India to the British crown. I therefore submit that in all future legislation we should not be described as British Indian subjects or British Indian citizens or in some such manner in which the basis of citizenship is not our birth in and loyalty to this country but some allegiance to some one who exists somewhere else. The basis of our citizenship should be our law. That should be borne in mind and followed in future. I am personally happy about this bill because I did not succeed in my attempt, my Bill came up to the consideration stage and it could not proceed further for the simple reason that I was not here. Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr. Mann Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce). Sir, I wish to raise a very small point and bring it to the attention of the House. The House will remember that during the last session I moved a Resolution in this House objecting to the safeguarding clauses of the Government of India Act, one of which provides that no disability can be imposed on a British subject and no discrimination can be made against him in the matter of entry or earning his livelihood or settling down in this country. I know that constitutionally those disabilities continue. I also know that this House unanimously adopted that Resolution. I am not sure if Mr Griffiths objected to it, but I am sure that this House minus the European Group supported that Resolution, and the feeling on all sides was that we should sooner or later get rid of those elections which prevent us from putting our house in order. I want to show this House a direction in which this Bill, which is very necessary and salutary, leaves a loophole. That loophole is with regard to South Africa. Under this Bill this Government cannot treat a South African as a foreigner. That is how I read it, if I am wrong I should be corrected. A South African being a British subject is not covered by this. At the present moment and in the present temper of the Indian people a South African is something that we would not touch with the longest pole. We would not give him any facilities or any welcome, and if we had our way we would hound him out of this country, no matter what economic or other losses it inflicted upon us. That is the present state of feeling in our mind. Our countrymen are being ill-treated there and are denied the elementary civil and property rights, and here we have the open door. I realise the disability of this Government constitutionally to expand this Bill so as to cover every person who is not a natural born Indian. That is the definition which my Honourable friend Mr Gadgil is asking for and that is the definition which I am asking for, and I realise that at the present moment it is not possible, in this legislature at all events, to bring in a law which will cover Indians alone and treat everybody else as a foreigner. We have in this country a very large number of people who have not abandoned their British nationality and who still claim Indian domicile and all rights thereunder. There are our English friends. With regard to these English friends the position will be settled in due course when the treaty between this country and the United Kingdom comes to be considered. And I do not wish to raise it now. But I do raise it with regard to South African who by this loophole is not regarded as a foreigner. He can enter this country by the open door and do what he likes.

Now, Sir, there is another small point which I made this morning in questions. I am very happy that the Honourable the Home Member has taken notice of this point. People have come to this country—I particularly refer to Bombay—who have reduced Bombay to a place comparable with the unenviable

3 P. M. reputation of Port Said and Singapore at one time. They have black-marketing, they have gathered all available supplies of chemicals, drugs, Gillette Blades and various other articles, they have bribed Government officials on a large and extensive scale and secured licences; they have amassed big money and I make this allegation with a full sense of responsibility on the floor of this

House that they have evaded the payment of income-tax on their income. These men who came with nothing, some of them have grown very rich, some of them are offering very uneconomic competition to our own people in various lines. They are not desirable citizens. Many of them, now that these laws are being tightened, are applying to this Government for naturalization certificates and they will regularize themselves as British subjects hereafter, and their application I understand, are by the hundreds being entertained and passed by this Government. I suggest, Sir, most respectfully that this is an issue which deserves a much closer examination. I do not say that any man who lives honestly in this country should be interfered with. I do not say that any set of people who wish to enter here for travel, for amusement and for other purposes, may not be permitted, but I do say that India's hospitality in giving these refugees a place to live in when they were hounded out from everywhere cannot be abused in the manner in which some of them are doing. Some of them engaged themselves in anti-social activities. This country in the past under the British tradition was an open country. It had an open door, anybody could come here and do what he liked, anybody could do any trade, anybody could enter into any transactions, and even if it was deleterious for the life of our own people we had no power or say in it, but that will not be the case in future. I therefore trust Government's attention will be drawn to some of the aspects which we are mentioning.

Let me mention another class of people who are in this country. There are Italian prisoners about whom I have been putting questions, there are Czechs and particularly Polish refugees to the extent of 6,000 in Kolapur, but I know there are camps near Rampur and Bhopal and all sorts of places. There are thousands of these refugees who are being paid, and Sir, may I tell this House the scale on which they are being paid. It is an unconscionable scale. I know in Secunderabad there are certain Czech refugees who are receiving Rs 500 a month ever since they arrived in this country and they are still being paid that sum. I want any party on the official Benches to contradict this information, and I shall be very glad to get that contradiction. This is also a problem. Here is a set of people whom we gave refuge during the period of their difficulties.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport) Who is paying this money?

Mr. Manu Subedar: I suppose it is being paid by the Government of India on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and it is adding to the sterling balances which is one of our headaches.

Sir, I want to know whether Government will not make an effort to remove all foreign elements who are costing us in this manner, and to regulate all other elements which are left but in particular to mark out those who are adding to the vice of this country and who are indulging in blackmarketing and other deleterious practices and in tax-dodging in particular. I think the Income-tax Department is normally quite efficient, if I may say so, when it affects the Indian section of the population but the Income-tax Department has been also very slack with regard to these people from Iraq and Poland and from Germany and Austria. Some of them have been playing havoc with our economic life. I know that they will be covered by this. All European foreigners are covered by this Bill, but I am sorry that it has not been possible for Government to include the South Africans whom we would like to treat as foreigners and unwelcome foreigners in every respect.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am glad that the House has fully supported the measure that has been brought by me. My Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil has reminded me of certain Indian State subjects that were dealt with under the old Act of 1864 and were treated as foreigners. I may inform him that I know more than he does about it because many of my comrades from Kathiawar who were working with me in British India were dealt with similarly. But furthermore, which nobody perhaps in this House or outside knows, a considerable pressure was brought to bear upon the Thakur Sahib of

[Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel]

Porbandar to deport Mahatma Gandhi from British India and keep him in that State because he was a subject of that State. Those days are gone and the Bill provides against any such abuse, nor is there any possibility of such an abuse in future.

He has also referred to the question of the definition. The definition in the present circumstances is of a negative character. It is a definition as to who is a foreigner in this land, not of Indian nationality. There is no law dealing with the Indian nationality at present. It is under consideration, but today the law is of British nationality. We have excluded what are called British subjects in this definition. The scope of the Bill is limited and it is better that this question should not be dealt with till we have our complete law dealing with Indian nationality and until India is as free as any other free country to deal with all the foreigners in the manner in which free countries are dealing with them.

The point raised by the Honourable Mr. Manu Subedar is about a certain number of detenus in this country—Italians and others. These detenus were kept in detention from the time the war began. Many of them have been repatriated. There are a few left still, but that is not because they are to be kept here, but because there are no proper passage facilities and other facilities for repatriation. But repatriation is kept in view and there are a very few left who will soon go. The expense on this account mostly falls on the British treasury and to that extent of course we become the creditor. How the debt will be dealt with is a different matter altogether, but if we have lent crores and millions and we have not grudged them, then why feel shy at an amount which is very small.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: It may break the camel's back.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam Europeans): The camel's back is very strong in this case.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: So the policy followed by this Government today is that any foreigner and these people who are prisoners or who are under detention and are mechanical or technical experts whose services would be very useful in this country and whose stay here in this country would not cause any difficulty or danger—such men are allowed provided the Government of India is satisfied that there is a demand for the employment of such experts. No other person is allowed to remain in this country from amongst those people who are under detention.

I am glad that the House has given almost an unanimous reception to this Bill.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (Dacca cum Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural): Will the inhabitants of French India and Portuguese India, who are as much Indians as we British Indians are, come under the purview of this measure?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Of course. So long as they are under foreign rule they are foreigners.

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill to confer upon the Central Government certain powers in respect of foreigners be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: We may now take the Bill clause by clause. There are amendments to clauses 6, 7 and 13 of which notice has been given by the Honourable Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava. Does he propose to move any of them? I find that these notices are coming in at the last minute.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division Non-Muhammadan): I quite see that I am late. But we have had no sufficient time to study the Bills and we had to go through them till late in the night.

Mr. President: I shall put these clauses separately and the other clauses by groups

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If I may be permitted to explain this, perhaps the mover may withdraw his amendment

Mr. President: If it is more convenient, it may be done at the time we consider the particular clause

So I am taking the clauses by groups

Mr. President: Clauses 2—5

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab Sikh) I have to say something about the definition. According to this Bill to allow the tribal people the same facilities as the natives of this land. They are not considered foreigners here though we have no facilities for going to their land. As a matter of fact they enter in northern India in large numbers in winter and compete with labour in this part of India and it is a very unhealthy competition. They lower the rate of wages. They should not be allowed to enjoy that privilege. Secondly, clause 4 of section 2 should be removed from the Bill altogether. They are also responsible for committing a very large number of offences in Northern India during the winter. They kidnap small children and they are a great nuisance to this part of the country and they should not be given the privilege of being considered as natives of this country.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Honourable Member wants the deletion of clause 4 of section 2, "is not a native of the Tribal areas". There are certain tribal areas inside India also and roundabout the borders of our country. It is very difficult to prevent inter-communication and perhaps it is unwise to prevent at this stage intercommunication, it would raise a wider and more complicated problem at this stage and therefore we have kept the definition as it was because it is more likely to create complications than confer advantages.

In the case of tribal people, if they are of a dangerous character, there are regulations to deal with them, there are the tribal regulations and other laws there and it is not proper to deal with this question at this stage. All that I can say is that the clause should be maintained.

Mr. President: The question is

"That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill

Mr. President: Clause 6

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is one amendment with regard to clause 6 and that is with regard to penalty. Now I invite the attention of the House to section 14 of the Bill which provides that if any person contravenes the provisions of this Act or any order made thereunder, or any direction given in pursuance of this Act, or such order, he will be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine, etc. So the provision for punishment is amply provided for and if it is the intention that the punishment should be not so severe, then it is a discretionary clause and the discretion should be left to the trying Court. Therefore I think the amendment is unnecessary and I hope it will be withdrawn.

Mr. President: He has not moved it yet

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: In view of what has been said by the Honourable the Member in charge, I feel that I should withdraw.

Mr. President: The position is whether the Honourable Member should be given permission to move. But no permission has been given. I only want to give the Honourable Member a chance of having his say in respect to clause 6, and not for the purpose of moving his amendment.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, clause 6 only refers to a sort of duty sought to be imposed upon the master of a vessel or the pilot of an aircraft. It puts a liability on the master of a vessel or the pilot of an aircraft to furnish certain information to certain officials who may be subsequently specified by particular orders. This duty is of such a nature that it cannot be said that it is a very great burden upon them and this duty even if not performed is not such as will endanger the safety of the state or in any way endanger the safety of any other person. It may be for purely statistical reasons, so that the Government may know what persons are coming in or going out of the country. I may, with your permission, Sir, point out that similar duties are cast by sections 44 and 45 of the Cr P C upon the members of the public. Those duties are much more cumbersome and at the same time they involve certain consequences to the public. Under Section 44 of the Cr P C if any member of the public becomes aware of the intention of any person to commit an offence under Section 121 (a), 302, 396, 436, 457 and many other sections, it is his duty to inform the police that such and such a person or persons have such and such intention and are about to commit such and such an offence. Similarly in Section 45 of the Cr P C the headman of a village or the village accountant is bound under law to inform the authorities about the commission of certain offences which may have taken place or are likely to take place. If those men on whom this duty has been imposed by law do not perform that duty or fail to give the information, Section 76 of the Cr P C says that they are liable for the offence to simple imprisonment for one month. My humble submission is that section 6 and section 13 (which also provides in sub-clause 3 that the master of a vessel or the pilot of an aircraft will be liable for certain offences) relate to two different aspects of the liabilities of the carriers. The offence mentioned in Section 13 is much more serious because in that case the man who brings in a foreigner knows that the foreigner is contravening a certain provision of the law and therefore he is certainly guilty of abetment whereas under sections 6 and 7 the only guilt imputed to him is one of negligence. He does not know whether he is innocent or guilty. He does not know anything about the foreigner. The only duty that is cast upon him is to inform the authorities. If he is guilty of an offence it is a very minor one and it is not such as to deserve a punishment of five years imprisonment. It is like using a sledge hammer to kill a gnat. You will find by that in Bentham's Theory of Legislation (Rule 8) it is said that if the offences are of a similar nature, but differing in degree, the punishment should not be the same for all. I know that the court is quite competent to award any punishment that it pleases. All the same it is the duty of the legislature to provide suitable punishments for particular offences. If the same punishment is awarded to offences similar in character but differing in degree, the smaller offence being awarded the same punishment as the bigger offence, the offender would preferably commit the bigger offence. I find that in the bills that have come before us yesterday and today the punishment provided is the same for all offences. As the verse goes

Take Ser Bhi ji, tale Ser Ahaya

(Same price for all kinds of food)

These offences under sections 6 and 7 do not involve any moral turpitude. If it goes to a court of law the punishment for an offence of this nature would be imprisonment of six months to one year or a fine. My submission is that the rules of Jurisprudence demand that you must provide proper punishment for appropriate offences. With your permission let me quote from the book on the Theory of Legislation, by Bentham a small couplet

"Let's have a rule

Which deals to crimes an equal punishment,

Nor tortures with the horrid lash for faults,

Worthy a birchen twig

If the keeper of a hotel or a person owning a sarai does not inform the authorities, the authorities have other ways and means to find out what they want. They have got their secret police. The man's only fault lies in not maintaining a register. Therefore my submission is that if proper punishments are not provided for proper offences the person committing the offence generally and the

public generally will have very little respect for the law courts nor confidence in the legislature

This is not a piece of legislation which would last for only one year after the war but it is a permanent piece of legislation and therefore our duty is that we should define the offences rightly and at the same time we should provide the punishment properly. It is not my intention to say that the provisions of Section 6 are not necessary. I want to submit to the House that the punishment prescribed is too disproportionate for the offence with which section 6 and 7 deal.

Mr. President: The question is

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President: Clause 13.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I think the original clause is more happily worded than the amendment proposed in this case, the amendment makes the thing unworkable and impracticable. Any way, I cannot appreciate the amendment at all and I hope the Honourable Member who has given notice of it will not move it.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural): On a point of order, Sir, the amendment has not been moved yet.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is speaking on the clause and not on the amendment.

Fundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I respectfully beg to submit for your consideration that this clause 3 of section 13 is of such a general and wide nature that one fails to find the reason for it. If the master of vessel or the pilot of an aircraft is sent to jail for five years, he must know what he is guilty of. According to clause 3 of section 13 the only offence that he is guilty of is bringing a person into India or making it possible for a person to leave British India. The language of the clause is

"The master of any vessel or the pilot of any aircraft as the case may be, by means of which any foreigner enters or leaves British India in contravention of any order made under, or direction given in pursuance of section 3 shall— be deemed to have contravened the Act."

What will be the position if the master of the vessel or the pilot of the aircraft does not know that he is carrying a person who has gone against the law. The mere fact that he is carrying a person who has contravened the law should not make him liable to punishment. My humble submission is that it is the duty of the prosecution in every case to prove that the master of the vessel or the pilot of the aircraft knew or had reason to believe that he is carrying a person who has contravened the law. In the absence of such a provision, you are only holding an innocent man to be guilty. The master of the vessel himself may not know who is travelling specially in view of the definition given in Section 6, and in the absence of such knowledge, the mere fact that he is the master of the vessel or the pilot of the aircraft should not make him liable to punishment. All the ingredients which go to constitute the offence will not be proved against him. I do not think it was the intention of the gentleman who drafted the law that such innocent men should be made liable to punishment. Moreover I fail to see how a person can exercise diligence to prevent such a person travelling. He does not know as a matter of fact that contravention has taken place or is about to take place. Therefore my humble submission is that many innocent men will come under the mischief of this provision.

It is again wrong to put the burden on the accused. It must be proved by the prosecution that the master of the vessel was in a position to prevent such a contravention. The mere possession of a certain knowledge does not make a man guilty. It is the intention and the act combined that constitute the offence.

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

My humble submission is that the clause as worded may bring within its mischief innocent men, unless the Honourable the Home Member suitably amends the wording

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) With all respect to my friend Mr. Bhargava, I do not agree with him. The rules of evidence are intended to bring the real offenders to book and also to see that an innocent person is not unnecessarily charged. If a man travels in a vessel, who else is in a position to know about that man than the master of the vessel himself, who carries him in his vessel. It is his duty to enquire whether the man whom he carries has committed a murder or offended against any of the rules and regulations which are in force for the safety of the community. It is the duty of the legislature to see that the pilot of an aircraft does not carry a person who has contravened any of the provisions of the law in force. Suppose a man travels without a ticket. Is it not the duty of the conductor to see that a man who travels in a public conveyance has a ticket or a proper passport. The burden is rightly on that man to show that the passenger is a *bona fide* one. My Honourable friend knows very well that if a person is in possession of a stolen watch it is his business to explain to the satisfaction of the authorities that he came into its possession in a rightful manner. I say the provision is not novel or contrary to the principles of jurisprudence. Likewise it is the duty of a hotel keeper to see that he does not harbour a man who has offended or is about to offend against the law. I would therefore oppose any amendment of the kind suggested by my friend Mr. Bhargava.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad : I am not a lawyer and I cannot argue in the manner of the two speakers who have preceded me. I like one point to be made clear. Suppose there is a stowaway about whom nobody knows. Will the master of the boat be liable for the travelling of this stowaway?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : If he proves that he has exercised due diligence, then he is free.

Mr. President : The object is to tighten up diligence. The question is "That clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President : Clause 14.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : It is my turn to request the Honourable the Home Member to see whether some change in the wording in this clause is called for. The expression used here is 'punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine'. My Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava referred to this and said that it does not make any difference between one kind of offence and another kind of offence. Even a small irregularity can be punished by 5 years. Five years is the maximum period that is prescribed and it cannot be said that the same kind of punishment can be given with respect to all kinds of offences irrespective of their seriousness. I, therefore, suggest that instead of the word 'shall' the word 'may' be substituted. It will give sufficient discretion to the Judge to impose some fine in addition to the imprisonment or he may not impose any fine at all. I am sorry I did not table any amendment to this effect, but if the Honourable Mover himself finds that sufficient latitude may be given, I would request him to accept it.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava : In all the offences that are mentioned in the Indian Penal Code the words always are "shall also be liable to fine". You will not find in any section of the Indian Penal Code the word "may". The phrase "shall also be liable to fine" means that he is liable to be fined. It is not obligatory on any Judge to fine him. Therefore, so far as the liability to fine is concerned, the words 'shall' and 'may' make no difference whatsoever.

Mr. President : The only alternative perhaps will be "shall be liable to imprisonment for 5 years or to fine or to both".

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In this clause what is compulsory is imprisonment. These commercial exploiters do not care for a fine of Rs 50 or of Rs 1,000. That is not the real object of this clause. But in case where there is a heavy fine to be imposed, the latitude is given. But the real object is a deterrent punishment. If you say 'or fine', it may mean that the Magistrate will let them go with a fine of Rs 5 and that will be useless. Therefore, this provision is deliberately put there.

Mr. President: The question is

"That clause 14 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 15 to 17 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SPECIAL TRIBUNALS (SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS) BILL

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal (Law Member) Sir, I move

"That the Bill to make certain provisions in relation to sentences and orders passed by Special Tribunals constituted under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943, on such Tribunals ceasing to function, be taken into consideration."

The Bill is very simple. It is intended to replace the Special Tribunals (Supplementary Provisions) Ordinance No 23 of 1946. The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance No 29 of 1943 provided for the constitution of Special Tribunals for the trial of specified cases allocated to them by the Central Government. Two of these Tribunals ceased to function on 1st of October 1946. As questions were bound to arise as to the courts which should be considered competent to succeed those tribunals for the purposes of the Criminal Procedure Code such as directing execution of sentences and receiving orders from the High Court on appeal or revision, it was considered necessary to make express statutory provisions for the determination of such questions before these Special Tribunals ceased to exist. As the Central Legislature was not then in session, the necessary provisions were enacted by the promulgation of an Ordinance, namely, the Special Tribunals (Supplementary Provisions) Ordinance, No 23 of 1946. As I have stated before this Bill is intended to replace that Ordinance. It seeks to make provisions where any special tribunal ceases to function that the sentences and orders passed by the Special Tribunals should be deemed to have been passed by the Court of Session within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the offences charged in the case were committed. If there may be more than one Court of Session, then by such Court as the High Court may determine.

This Bill also repeals the Special Tribunals (Supplementary Provisions) Ordinance, 1946. It is very simple, as I have stated. Some apprehension might arise in the minds of some of my Honourable friends as to the functions that were entrusted to those Special Tribunals. I would like to make it clear that certain categories of offences were allotted to those Special Tribunals for trial. They had nothing to do with political offences. Certain offences that were committed by high officials, such as, corruption, bribery, embezzlement and misappropriation of money were allotted for trial by these courts. As one of my Honourable friends pointed out to me, I can tell him that no political prisoners were either tried or convicted by these special tribunals. I would again like to make it clear that

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no political offences were tried by these tribunals. I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House and I hope Honourable Members will agree with me that this Bill should be passed without much debate.

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That the Bill to make certain provisions in relation to sentences and orders passed by Special Tribunals constituted under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943, on such Tribunals ceasing to function, be taken into consideration."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Clintoo Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, somehow, I am not able to reconcile myself to the passing of this Bill, whoever might be the target of attack under this Bill. It is said that this Bill does not cover political offences, but offences committed by public servants in the discharge of their duty, such as bribery etc., sections 161 to 165 etc. But ordinary courts were not allowed jurisdiction and when cases were launched before ordinary courts, after Special Tribunals came into existence those cases were transferred to those Special Tribunals. You will see from the constitution of the Special Tribunal and the manner in which the Special Tribunals disposed of cases, whoever might be the accused, that we ought to make it clear to anybody who is charged with the offence that the law is equitable and just, that the dishonest people shall be punished that merely in the hurry of the war, no man shall be convicted unless he is given a fair opportunity to defend himself at the trial. I am trying to proceed on that principle. Now, kindly refer to clause 4 of the Ordinance which this Special Act is trying to revive or restore in a degree. The Special Tribunal is to consist of three members of whom one shall be an officer of His Majesty's forces. I take very serious exception to an officer of His Majesty's forces being one of the Judges, whatever might be his other qualification, to decide upon cases of misappropriation by high public servants, misappropriation or corruption. Why should a member of the Forces be chosen for that purpose? That is my first objection with regard to the composition of this tribunal. Then as regards powers of appeal, clause 7 of the Ordinance says that there shall be no appeal from any order or sentence of a Special Tribunal.

Sir George Spence (Secretary Legislative Department) My Honourable friend is quoting from the Ordinance as originally promulgated in 1943. It was subsequently amended in both respects to which he is referring and in particular section 7 was amended so as to render all the ordinary appellate revisional jurisdiction of the High Court exercisable.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would ask the Honourable Member who has signed this Bill to refer to the Statement of Objects and Reasons whether he has referred to any amendment at all there. It simply says —

"The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance 1943 (XXIX of 1943) provided for the constitution of Special Tribunals for the trial of specified cases allotted to them by the Central Government."

Sir George Spence: The reference to the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance means the Ordinance as amended up to the date when the Statement of Objects and Reasons was signed.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: He has not even placed a copy in the library and does my Honourable friend expect me to carry all these in my brain or carry all these books with me? He must make the Statement of Objects and Reasons self contained. Assuming that what he says is a fact, I would ask the Honourable the Law Member that now that there is a change of Government to review all these cases and find out whether, in particular cases persons have been judged wrongly or not. Otherwise there is no meaning in delegating the powers to Special Tribunals and continuing the same kind of tragedy to which these persons have been exposed. A number of persons are noted in the Schedule, I do not know how many have been convicted for whom Special Tribunals were constituted. One is in Calcutta, and the other is at Lahore. A list of 14 persons were put up before Lahore Tribunal

and 20 before the Calcutta tribunal I would urge upon the Honourable Member that before he wants to continue the Special Tribunal by vesting that jurisdiction in sessions courts to make sure that these convictions are just and proper and to see to it that the sessions courts exercise the jurisdiction vested in them by removing these conviction or vacating them and delegate the powers of special tribunal to sessions courts only with respect to other persons in other cases

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: My Honourable friend has committed one initial mistake. This Bill does not propose to set up any Special Tribunal.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Continuing

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: Not at all. Two Special Tribunals one at Lucknow and the other at Amraoti have ceased to function. They have disposed of all cases allotted to them. The sentences and orders passed by those Special Tribunals have got to be executed by some courts. There was no provision in those special tribunals ordinances and no provision anywhere in the criminal procedure code which enabled the execution of sentences. Hence certain enactments is necessary to provide for the successor of those two special tribunals which will execute those orders and sentences passed by the Special Tribunals. Now this Bill intends to give power or appoint as then successor the session court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the offences charged in the case were committed. Therefore I feel that at this stage there is nothing to be criticised. What was done was done at the time of the passing or the promulgation of these Ordinances, namely Ordinance XXIX of 1943. Now, these Special Tribunals passed certain sentences and orders and it is fair and reasonable that some courts should execute those orders and sentences.

Sreejot Ronini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley, Non-Muhammadan) I wish to know whether there will be any new trials under the Special Tribunal. Now my Honourable friend said in the course of his preliminary remarks that out of five or so many tribunals only two have become defunct and the rest are still functioning.

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: Seven Special Tribunals were constituted and five are still functioning. Part of the provisions of these Special Tribunals come under the provincial jurisdiction namely the constitution and organisation of courts. So the respective provinces were asked to pass enactments for the continuance of these special tribunals. One such Act has been passed by the Bengal legislature and another by the Bombay legislature and for the Punjab I think the legislature is not in session and an Ordinance has been promulgated there for the continuance of the Special Tribunals. The cases which were allotted to these Special Tribunals shall only be tried by those Special Tribunals. I think there is nothing else for me to explain or add and I hope the Bill will be taken into consideration.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I wish to say a word of personal explanation. I have not misunderstood my Honourable friend. I only wanted that the jurisdiction of Special Tribunals is not continued in the sessions court, and my object is, that the convictions of these Special Tribunals shall lapse. There will be no court which will execute these in cases where in the special tribunals there was a glaring breach of justice. That is what I wanted. I do not want these sentences to be executed. If this Act does not

4 P M clothe the sessions courts with the powers of the special tribunals no court can execute these sentences. It is because I am offended with these Special Tribunals which were not constituted properly whose judgment I do not approve of. That is my point; I did not misunderstand him.

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: On this point I should like to make it clear that section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance of 1943 provided for appeals to the High Court. The only restriction was that

[Mr Jogendra Nath Mandal]

no transfer of cases allotted to these Special Tribunals was allowed by any court. But the aggrieved or convicted persons were entitled to prefer an appeal to the High Court. Therefore I think my Honourable friend shall have no objection in the matter.

Mr. President: I do not know whether it will be proper on my part to state to the House, the difficulties which I was feeling about this. I do not know what happens to the pending cases before the tribunals about the time they cease because clause 3 deals with sentences or orders passed. There may be neither sentences nor orders about the time the tribunals cease to exist. I was just considering it from that point of view and trying to gain some light myself, being a lawyer I felt interested in this discussion. It is not merely a question of executing sentences or orders but of providing for succession to a particular court which ceases to exist. If that is the object, it would not present much difficulty.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, since you have been good enough to raise this question it is rather necessary that this matter should be discussed in order to make the whole question clear. As you were looking at the matter I was also looking at it from a different point of view exactly for the same purpose, because, if the sessions court is meant to be the successor to the tribunal this law as it is, will defeat its purpose. On the other hand it may be contended, as presumably the Law Member meant to contend, that this Bill covers only specified cases, namely, there have been final orders by the special tribunals, these are pending before the High Court, during the pendency of these cases the special tribunals ceased to exist, and therefore the sentence as originally passed by the special tribunal which is confirmed by the High Court stands, or the sentence is modified or changed to some other form and the question of execution of that sentence remains the only question at that time. If the Bill is so narrow as that it is certainly clear and there is nothing to object to. But, as you have hinted, if the sessions court is meant really to be the successor for all practical purposes of administration of justice, I submit this Bill will carry us into the wilderness.

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: That is not the object of this Bill.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What will happen if instead of modifying the High Court thinks fit to order a retrial? Under what rule and regulation is the sessions court a successor, with all the inconveniences and limitations made under the original Ordinance? Or will it be allowed to proceed under the Criminal Procedure Code?

Mr. President: Before this controversy goes on, I may point out that the wording seems to be clear in the direction of succession.

"When any Special Tribunal ceases to function, the sentences or orders passed by it in any case shall, for the purposes of the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, applicable in respect of those sentences or orders, be deemed to have been passed by the Court of Session", etc.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is this order means an order of adjournment *sine die* by an order of the Special Tribunal?

Mr. President: That is an order which shall be deemed to have been passed by the Court of Session "within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the offences charged in the case are alleged to have taken place." Then of course the procedure in respect of orders of the sessions court will be followed. That is what I understood. Therefore, I put the question as to what is to happen to pending cases because the clause refers to "sentences or orders passed".

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: There are no pending cases before these tribunals.

Mr. President: I did not know the facts, I was merely trying to know the scope of the legislation from the wording

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural)
There is another difficulty that Mr Ayyangar pointed out. Supposing the High Court orders a retrial and this court ceases to function who will take it up?

Mr. President: That is the sessions court. However, we will leave the matter of interpretation to the courts if and when such cases arise.

The question is

"That the Bill to make certain provisions in relation to sentences and orders passed by Special Tribunals constituted under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943, on such Tribunals ceasing to function, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: Sir, I move

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MOTOR VEHICLES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. M Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport):
Sir, I move

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (*Second Amendment*) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Puri, Mr. V. V. Gadgil, Pandit Ishwar Das Bhargava, Sri N. Narayanamurthi, Mr. Gaur Shankar Saran Singh, Sri Satyapriya Banerjee, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Mr. R. C. Morris, Rai Bahadur D. M. Bhattacharya, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Harendra Singh, Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and the Mover with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

As the House remembers, the Motor Vehicles Act was passed in 1939 and it was not until the last session that an amending Bill was brought up and was referred to a Select Committee.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammed Yamin Khan).]

At that time Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Act had not been brought into force. It came into force from the 1st of July 1946, and since then we have discovered that there is a *lacuna* in Chapter VIII, the *lacuna* being, want of reciprocity with the States. Compulsory insurance of motor vehicles in British India was enforced, but the States had no reciprocal arrangement with us, and were free to do exactly as they liked. Now that 40 states have expressed their intention to pass parallel legislation so that insurance policies that may be taken out in British India, if this Bill is passed, will be valid in the reciprocating States and *vice versa*, it has become necessary to pass this measure. Of course I must also mention the fact that we have taken this occasion to introduce one or two minor amendments which will be found in the Bill. I am sure Honourable Members have already read the Statement of Objects and Reasons and they have also looked

[Mr M Asaf Ali] at the notes on clauses, and it is not necessary for me to inflict at the tag end of the day a long speech on the House. Moreover this measure is wholly non-controversial. In any case it is being referred to the very Select Committee which is now considering or which will be considering the earlier amending measure.

There is only one change. The Honourable the Law Member happens to be different today, and I happen to be a different person. Otherwise all the other members are exactly the same. There should be no controversy about it, and I hope the House will agree to my motion. Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved

That the Bill (to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939) (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Mr Jogendra Nath Mandal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pahlwal, Sjt N V Gidgil, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sri N Narayanaiah, Mr Gaur Shankar Saran Singh, Sri Sityapiya Banerjee, Mr M A F Hitzel, Mr R C Morris, Mr Puhidu D M Bhattacharya, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Harendra Singh Khun Mohammad Yamin Khun, Mr Siddiq Ali Khan Syed (Hulum Bhik Nairang, Mr Muhammad Nauman Shai Moh n Lal Saksena, Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammudin Rural) May I ask if the Honourable Member has made himself a member of the other Select Committee also?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am a member.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no motion moved to the effect that you should be on that Select Committee. The previous Railway Member was on that Committee and the present Railway Member cannot *ipso facto* step into his place.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not quite sure. As a matter of fact when the Select Committee met last time I was there and no objection was raised.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We cannot ask the Honourable Member to walk about.

Sri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) I think there should be a formal motion about this.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department) May I refer to Standing Order 40, which provides, that

The Member of the Government to whose department the Bill relates—(in this case the Honourable Mr Asaf Ali)—the member who introduced the Bill and the Law Member of the Governor General's Executive Council, if he is a member of the Assembly, shall be members of every Select Committee, and it shall not be necessary to include their names in any motion for appointment of such a Committee.

Mr. Deputy President: It was not necessary to include the names of the Law Member and the Mover, that is redundant.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Now that this Bill refers to Chapter VIII of the Motor Vehicles Bill can both of them be discussed together and one report of the Select Committee be issued for both.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is perfectly obvious that both these amending measures will be considered by the same Select Committee and they will submit one report on both.

Mr. Deputy President: We cannot discuss what procedure the Committee will adopt. What is provided here is that the report should be made on the opening day of the next session and the other Committee has to report on the same day too.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haid Ishaq Feth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) May I ask the Honourable Member to enlighten me on the question

of whether these two Bills are to be considered at one and the same time by the same Select Committee?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am perfectly certain that my Honourable friend knows the entire procedure from end to end. Does he mean to suggest that both these measures will be considered at the same time? It is quite obvious that both the amending measures will be taken up item by item. It is open to the Committee to take up this item first or the other one, and in any case after having considered both the amending measures, normally I should expect them to submit one report rather than two.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You require permission of the House for that.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal European): Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House unduly, but there is one point. As I understand it, Section 95 of the Act is open to amendment and we on this side of the House should like to move an amendment in the Select Committee on Section 95 sub-section 3. The Motor Vehicles Act, as we all know, is a Trojan horse in as much as it professes to deal with motor vehicles, but under that cover it deals also with transport to an ever-increasing extent. In addition in certain sections it also deals with what might be regarded as labour items. This particular amendment which we propose to move is in that connection, and I do not propose to discuss the merits, but I should like to know from the Honourable the Transport Member that it will be open to us to move that amendment in the Select Committee.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member ought to know that once this motion is carried, then the House is committed to the principle underlying the Bill and no amendment which violates that principle can be moved. It is for the Honourable Member to see whether he will be in order or not and that will be decided by the Chairman of the Committee.

The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (*Second Amendment*) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal, Sjt N. V. Gidgil, Pandit Hukam Das Bhargava, Sri N. Narayanamurthi, Mr. Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Mr. R. C. Morris, Rai Bahadur D. M. Bhattacharya, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Hariendra Singh, Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan, Syed Ghulam Bluk Nuriang, Mr. Muhammad Nauman Shri Mohan Lal Sak-sena, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

BANKING COMPANIES (RESTRICTION OF BRANCHES) BILL

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill to restrict the opening and removal of Branches by banking companies be taken into consideration."

As the Honourable Members must have noticed from the aims and objects of the Bill, it is intended to enact one section of the Banking Companies Bill and that section, Sir, is clause 18(6). In recent times, Mr. Deputy President, there has been a rapid increase in branches of various banks in the country. I would like to give the House some figures of the increase that has taken place during the last few years. In 1938 the banking offices in India were only 1,471. Their number increased to 2,710 at the end of 1942, and to 3,418 at the end of 1943, and to 4,550 at the end of 1944, and to 5,266 at the end of 1945. Now, Sir, the Honourable Members will notice that there has been a very great increase in the number of branches of the various banks that have been opened in recent times. We would think that an increase in numbers should be welcome, and I think it is something which we should welcome. But unfortunately, the increase has not been on right lines. For instance, nearly one-third of the total

[Mr Liaquat Ali Khan]

number of Branches of scheduled banks at the end of 1945 were owned by banks which were floated during the war or which were included in the second schedule during this period. Not only that, but these Branches have been concentrated in a few bigger towns, with the result that while the number has increased, the facilities for banking have not increased proportionately, and it has been noticed that in larger towns the number has been beyond proportion. This has not helped in increasing banking business. It has only helped in diverting business from one branch to another.

Now, Sir, it has led to a number of difficulties and undesirable practice. To get business from other branches which were already in existence, new terms of interest and better terms of interest have been offered by the smaller banks who could not compete with other banks on account of their well-established past and their financial resources, with the result that these small banks by offering a larger rate of interest have to incur a greater expenditure and they can only get back this money by making loans on bigger rates of interest. Then management charges have also been greater and the result has been that it has not benefitted those small banks and by manipulations they have shown profits whereas they have in fact not made any profits. Now, Sir, as I have already said the opening of these new branches in towns has not helped in tapping new banking channels. But it has only meant directing business from one Branch to another.

Then Sir, there is another undesirable practice that has sprung up. Some of these small banks have opened branches in provinces far away from their headquarters and on account of the credulity of the people there they have succeeded in securing deposits which they have remitted to their head offices, with the result that in a number of cases the branches in far-flung provinces have not been able to meet their obligations and a number of cases have come to the notice of the Government that the depositors have been refused payment, and consequently they have had to suffer a great loss.

Then Sir, banking, as you know, is not in such an advanced stage in India as it is in some other parts of the world, and we have not got sufficient trained personnel for this specialized subject in the country, with the result that untrained men have been employed and it has meant great deterioration in the management of the banking business in India. Sir, in other countries, the Governments have legal powers to regulate and control the opening of new Branches and the object of this Bill is to vest the Reserve Bank with special powers to regulate the opening of new branches of banks throughout the country. While the Reserve Bank is considering a case for opening a new branch, they would examine the financial position of the bank, they would examine the requirements of the locality where a branch is intended to be opened, they would examine the management of the concern, and they would, before permission is given to open a new branch, make certain that it would be in the interests of the banking business of the country as well as in the interests of the depositors. Where the Reserve Bank finds that it is in the interests of the financial position and financial stability of the country to stop the opening of new branches they would take proper action and would not allow any new branches to be opened.

Sir, as you are aware, the Banking Companies Bill was referred to a Select Committee and the Select Committee on this Bill has not yet started functioning. It will be sometime before the Banking Companies Bill becomes law but in the meantime a number of banking concerns are going ahead with opening branches, so that later on they may escape from the clause to which I referred at the beginning of my speech and which is incorporated in the Banking Companies Bill. It is intended that this should be stopped immediately and we cannot afford to wait till such time as the Banking Companies Bill becomes law. I hope the Honourable Members of this House will agree with me that it is absolutely necessary that we should control and have a proper check on the opening of new branches of banks not only in the interest of banking business in this country but also in the interest of depositors. There are great possibilities for

banking business in India. There are in fact no banks in the rural areas or in smaller towns and we should make every effort to see that branches are opened in those areas instead of concentrating them only in larger cities, which does not help either to get any more business or get any more banking facilities but only helps to create more branches and consequently less business for each bank. Sir, I commend this motion for the consideration of this Honourable House

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved

"That the Bill to restrict the opening and removal of Branches by banking companies be taken into consideration"

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, on a point of information I would like to know how many branches have been opened since the introduction of the Bill last Budget Session so that we may be in a position to know as to whether this Bill is necessary at this stage

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I will reply in my closing speech

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: If we have the information now that would save a lot of speeches on these amendments

Mr. Deputy President. The Honourable Member mentioned some figures as to what we had sometime ago and what we have now

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to know the figures since the introduction of this Bill

Mr. Deputy President: There are amendments and Mr. Jaffer who has a motion for circulation is not here. Then there is one by Mr. Sanval

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanval (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan the Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal Sir Cowajee Jehangir, Mr. K. G. Ambegolkar, Mr. Ram Nath, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson, Khan Mohammad Yamin Khari, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon Mr. Mohd. M. Killeddar, Mr. Manu Subedar, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Sri M. Ananthasaynam Ayyangar, Mr. P. B. Gole, Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar Sri Satya Narayan Sinha, Sardar Mangal Singh, and the Member with instructions to report by the 31st December, 1946 and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Why not the whole House?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanval: I should welcome such an amendment

Sir, after the Honourable Member for Railways and War Transport who referred his second Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill to a Select Committee which is identical with the Select Committee to which the other Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill was referred, I am surprised that the Government is not pursuing the same policy in the matter of this Bill also. I think that this motion which has been moved by the Honourable the Finance Member is objectionable on three grounds. The first ground is that it is piecemeal legislation, the second ground is haste and the third ground is positive (I hope it is not intentional) discourtesy to the Select Committee to which the bigger Banking Companies (Amendment) Bill has already been referred.

Sir, banks have been growing in the last few years either for good or for evil or for both.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: It cannot be for both

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanval: and it was desired and expected from various quarters that there should be a consolidating Bill and it was a very welcome measure when during the last budget session the Finance Member introduced the Bill and it was referred to a Select Committee. If you would be good enough to refer to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, to which the Honourable the Finance Member himself referred, the frank object is to put into immediate operation clause 18 of the earlier and the bigger Bill. May I enquire why a portion only of that Bill has been sliced out and why this Bill is proposed to be rushed down the throat of the legislature in this manner?

Mr. Deputy President: The arguments have been given

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I hope to meet those arguments. The Honourable the Finance Member says that the number of branches was increasing by leaps and bounds and he has given figures up to 1945. When the earlier Bill was referred to the Select Committee it was sometime in March or April, 1946. The Government of that time and the then Finance Member had before them these figures of the rapidly increasing number of banks and their branches up to 1945 and the number was 5,266. We can take it that at that time it was not considered necessary for the then Finance Member or the then Government to hustle any portion of this Bill through the House. Therefore it would be pertinent to make an enquiry of the Honourable the Finance Member as to when the Government considered the desirability of putting a stop to this mounting march of banks and their branches. Certainly not in April, 1946. Then the position boils down to this that there must have been some further rapid, unwelcome and undesirable increase in the number after April 1946. That would be a more relevant and pertinent information. My friend Mr. Saksena put the real and pointed question when he stood up to make an enquiry of the Honourable Member as to how many branches or banks have cropped up after the last Bill was referred to the Select Committee. That is the crux of the matter and the Honourable the Finance Member's whole case is that all these developments are fraught with danger to the banking structure of the country. The Government's principal case seems to be that after the 1946 Bill was referred to the Select Committee the bankers and financiers dealing with banks are manipulating things in such a way as to defeat the amending measure which was before the Select Committee at that time. If the Finance Member has got his information that after April, 1946 and before today any number of branches have been opened, then of course he will use that information and will convince us as to why during this interim period such an emergent and hasty legislation has been necessary. I have got my information and I propose humbly to convey that information to the Finance Member. Some new branches have been opened but these are not really new branches. They are the commitments of earlier times. For example in December 1945 there may have been a number like 5,266 but at that time some contemplated branches could not be opened on account of certain difficulties. Investments were however made, establishments were provided for and expenses were gone through. In point of time, they came into existence after December 1945 but actually there were prior commitments. Being a member of the Select Committee I am trying to get facts so that we may use them. My information is that between April, 1946 and today not more than two or three branches have been opened all over the country.

Mr. Mann Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) The number must be 200.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Out of this 200, the bulk of the branches were the commitments of previous times. As a matter of fact, houses were taken, furniture purchased and officers were appointed. Only on account of certain difficulties or for purposes of certain formal opening ceremonies, they could not be opened earlier. The other Select Committee has already sat on the 15th April, 1946 and this matter and other matters are already before that Select Committee. On account of certain political exigencies, when bigger things were on the anvil and Simla was the scene of various other important matters, this Select Committee could not be called but it has been called again and we have got notice that this Select Committee is going to sit on the 21st November and it is expected to sit up to the 7th December, 1946. What useful purpose will be served by withdrawing this from the Select Committee and hustling this piece of legislation through the House. What will be the effect of this legislation. The Finance Member has given figures that from 1938 to 1945 there has been a very big increase but is this Bill going to touch the fringe of those banks and their branches which have already their existence before. Certainly not. What is the point in bringing a legislative measure which will not affect the sinners but which will affect only new

enterprises Towards the beginning there may have been the advantages of inflation but these parties and banks and branches who already had derived benefit of inflation by foul means more than by fair, they will get double protection, namely, the protection of the inflation which they have already got and the protection of this legislative measure which will not axe even a part of their existence but will axe only new enterprises which may be more honest and more solid in their aspirations

What is the point in suddenly waking up to the realities of the situation and trying to hurry through a legislation which will prejudicially affect new and honest enterprises Today the position is different Those parties and branches got the advantage of inflation and today when branches will be opened they will be opened with reference to the present context of things If banks are really eager to open their branches today they will certainly be more cautious because after all they are business men They are not going to have their business expanded only to spit the law or other They will proceed according to the fundamental principles of self-interest They will automatically be anxious today and it is extremely unfortunate that the Finance Member has stated that they are forestalling These banks are not forestalling anything They are only carrying on their growth in the normal way and if any party is guilty of forestalling, if I may say so without any disrespect to the Government or the Honourable the Finance Member, this Bill is guilty of forestalling the considerations which will be before the Select Committee which is going to consider the bigger Bill This Bill cannot be considered apart from the other provisions of the bigger Bill We have to consider this along with clause 11 of that Bill and with other things It is a controversial question whether banks should have rapid marches or not Much can be said on either side Therefore things cannot be anticipated or prejudged

As I was submitting, this Bill will have the effect of tightening up the growth of honest and deserving enterprises The effect will be that big banks which have already spread the tentacles of their activities all over the country, they will not only come to stay but they will have the additional advantage of being relieved of any healthy competition that may be offered by new enterprises Sir here again the whole thing boils down to the question of Tata, Dalmias and Birlas etc According to Newtonian law all matters gravitate towards the earth and according to the law of administration of this country, whatever is done will inure to the benefit of certain big banking concerns only, certain big banking enterprises only and all the small banking concerns will be washed out All the advantages will be enjoyed only by the big magnates who have already got a sure footing and stronghold not only in one province but practically in all the important cities of the country As time goes on these big organisations will have free field and they will be relieved of all healthy competition that might be offered by new enterprises Therefore on principle also that is bad Sir the Honourable the Finance Member has proposed in his Statement of Objects and Reasons to give authority to the Reserve Bank to examine the financial structure and the earning capacity and the capital assets and all that In clause 3 also reference is made to that Now, Sir, may I enquire from the Honourable the Finance Member what has the Government done in order to increase the financial efficiency of these comparatively new and less developed banking concerns Sir, I will not use strong language But if I were in the opposition as we were in the Budget session and if this Government were the previous Government, then, I would have said that the Government are throttling the banking institutions from two ends At one end the Government is putting down in the matter of capital issues and at the other end fresh shackles are put by saying don't go to the field, you do not extend yourself If the previous Government were here and if I had been in opposition, I would have said the same thing, but what is the position today with regard to capital issue matter I must say that it is an open scandal that there are no principles governing the grant or refusal in the matter of application of capital issues It is only the rule of thumb of some

[Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]

authority in some department somewhere that decides to grant or not to grant the application. This is one of my standing objections and there are several cases which I will take up personally with the Honourable the Finance Member for his consideration. I know of certain Banks who have stood very well by the community for over 25 years. They have grown and grown and spread their branches and they have done good service to the constituents, but then the more you do good things, the more you require capital and the capital has to be increased. When they make application to the authorities for increase of their capital issues, usually the first reply is that the application is not according to form. It is not pointed out how the application is not according to form. The second reply that is usually given is that the requirements have not been fulfilled. Nothing is said about what those requirements are. Then ultimately when everything is done then the summary order goes that the capital issues cannot be granted. Permission is refused. Why are these Banks which are doing very well and which would have done much better being refused nutrition by the rule of the thumb of the department. Sir, I would also say that the Honourable the Finance Member ought to take also the moral responsibility for the collapse of some Banks during the last few weeks. The Honourable the Finance Member was very light in using the expression that he received complaints that some branches could not pay to the depositors. I do not know which are the branches and which are the Banks. But I will not be surprised if there are one or two. But you cannot penalise the whole community of Banks because there are some black sheep within the fold. But I would rather bring the alternative charge that some of these Banks have collapsed because of the one reason namely refusal to give permission for increasing the capital structure and so the moral responsibility for their collapse rests on the Government. These Banks have spread their branches between 1938 to 1945. The Branches increased but the Government did nothing. I would have understood if the Government had stopped the spread of these branches in time but having allowed these Banks to spread their branches all over the country, if the depositors interest is so dear to the Government as it should be, then the Government ought to have liberally allowed them to grow and develop their capital by issue of capital permits. But then the Government did not do that. So, for sometime the Government kept quiet over the whole matter and then the interest of the community required that the Government should give assistance by allowing share capital to increase, but by withholding the permission the result is that on account of this callousness and cruelty of the Government, these Banks have crashed. I lay the charge at the door of the Government.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: You would have said all these had you been on this side of the House?

Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: My point is this that it is not the time to interfere like this, because I can conceive of Banks, I can conceive this position generally also that Banks can grow and avoid a crash even if they do not get capital assistance from the Government provided they are allowed to have free scope in their developments. After all the Banks do not really flourish very much upon the capital of shareholders as upon credit. I know of certain Banks who have got such enormous credit in their own locality that they do business in lakhs and lakhs which create the impression that these are very big Banks that they have very large share capital that they do not care to know whether the capital issue department is issuing permit or not. They look at persons who are pioneers and who are at the helm of affairs of Banks. There are some outstanding personalities in certain Banks which in themselves are adequate credit and that helps the Bank in carrying on smoothly and that also always keeps depositors interest safe. Therefore I would beg of the Honourable Member not to throttle these institutions from both ends. Banks must grow they should not come to an end at all. The Honourable the Finance Member, whose knowledge of affairs is certainly much more than mine has used language

which I certainly do not appreciate much. There has been in recent years a rapid increase in new branches of Banks mostly at places where adequate banking facilities are already available. As a humble student of economic we hear that Banking in India is still thousands and thousands of miles away from the saturation point in our country. It is said that even in America and other advanced countries, banking has not reached its saturation point. Are we to understand that in our country we are so advanced economically that we have reached the saturation point? Certainly not. Then Sir, my Honourable friend used the language, "where adequate banking facilities are already available." Sir, he should not have found fault with that, because as with the law of nature commerce banking and industrial institutions have a tendency to gravitate to particular places. They seek their own level, they flock together and they create some sort of circle. If there is one Bank doing good business, then a banking field is created, there is room for another Bank. Similarly the field creates Bank and the Bank creates field. This is a sort of virtuous circle, not a vicious circle. That is how human institutions grow. Why should it be different in respect of Banks? Now Sir, I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member referred on to the principal Presidency towns. He says there has been overcrowding in Presidency towns. But if he wants to relieve the congestion, I would ask him to bring in a legislative measure which will induce or compel these big capitalistic Banks to penetrate into the villages so that the towns might be an easier field for more enterprising and less capitalistic institutions. After all, if the congestion is to be relieved, let relief be in favour of the growing concerns, not in favour of those who have already reached the peak of development. I will be very glad if by his legislative measure the Honourable Member can induce the Birlas, the Tatas and Dalmas and all these big financiers to help the development of banking in rural parts.

Mr. Deputy President: As it is now five o'clock, the House will now adjourn. The Honourable Member can resume his speech tomorrow.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, before you adjourn the House I want to offer the House an explanation with regard to the names included in the Motion for Select Committee which my Honourable friend has proposed. It is not given to any Member to propose names without getting the sanction of Members whose names he wishes to propose. For the information of the House, I may say that the usual practice is that if an Honourable Member wants to make a proposition like this, he approaches the Whips of the Parties so that the Whips can give the names of such people who are willing to serve. In this particular instance, I do wish to bring to the notice of the House that none of the Members of the Muslim League Party was approached nor was consent given.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir I owe an apology to the House. Being new to this House, I thought that when I was giving a Motion for reference of the Bill to the Select Committee which is a Committee identical with the Committee which is going to sit and which has already been passed by this House, no further formalities were required. Therefore, Sir, I must say that in my want of wisdom, I thought I was doing something which may not be wrong. But since I now offer an apology to the House, I would ask the Whips of Parties to obtain the necessary consent so that the *factum valet* policy may be approved.

Mr. Deputy President: For the guidance of the House as I told yesterday when a similar point was raised, I may again inform the House that it has been decided in this House that no names should be mentioned in the Select Committee without obtaining the previous consent of the Members whose names are proposed. But now of course it sometimes happens that the consent of individual members cannot be obtained. But if this had been left to the Party Whips, and if the Whips are willing to give names, they are supposed to have taken the consent of the Members whose names they propose. I hope this practice will be followed in future.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock, on Thursday, the 14th November 1946.

APPENDIX I
[Vide page 927 ante]
Statement filed on the table in reply to part (a) of starred question No 488 answered on 13th November 1946
List of Officers—Lands Hiriings and Disposals Service, India

Rank	Name	Unit	Appointment	Technical qualifications	Practical experience
1. Maj Gen.	G W. Hodgson	IA	Dir Gen	Special appointment	GHQ letter 0900/405 (MS1D) dated 4 Dec 45
2. Brig.	J. N. C. Taylor	RARO (late IA)	Dir L & H		Lands and Hiriings Service, Middle East from Dec 1940 to 1944. Came over with Maj Gen HAYES from Middle East to inaugurate Lands Hiriings and Disposals, India Oct 1944 to date
3. Brig.	A S Sullivan	IA	Dir of Disposals	Fellow Chartered Surveyors Institution	20 years with Military Lands and Colonies Dept Joined L H & D. Nov 1944.
4. Brig.	S A. Bowden	IA	Dep Dir	Fellow Chartered Surveyors Institution	20 years with Military Lands and Colonies Dept Joined L. H. & D. Feb 1944
5. Col.	A. W. H. Lawless	IA	Dep Dir		Lands and Hiriings Middle East and Palestine Aug 41 to Nov 44 Joined L H & D India Nov 1944
6. Col.	R. C. Triggs	IA	Dep Dir		13 years with Military Lands and Colonies Dept 1943 appointed to Civil Defence Dept to implement civil Defence measures Joined L H & D. India Mar 1946
7. Col.	P. A. Totterdell	R. Sigs	Dep Dir	Licensed Valuer Surveyor and Claims Assessor	15 years experience as Assessor of claims Joined L H & D Nov 1944
8. Lt.-Col.	R. H. Atkinson	RAOC	Asst Dir		Estates Agent. Served to Feb 45 Limited Companies Joined L H & D.

9 'A-Col	E H. N. Auger	RE	Asst. Dir	Associate Member of Institute of Civil Engineers, Associate City and Guild of London Institute in the faculty of Engineering (Civil & Mechanical)	DORE RE UK 1940 to 1943 G. E. Garrison Engineer, India 1943 to 1946. CRE Shilling 1945 to June 46. Joined L. H. & D. June 1946.
10 Lt.-Col.	S F Cooper	RE	Asst. Dir		Surveyor and Assessor.
11 Lt.-Col.	I T W. Cowrie	RA	Asst. Dir	Associate Member of Chartered Accountants Fellow Royal Econ. Soc. Fellow Royal Statistical Society	Experience with firms of Chartered Accountants from Nov. 1921 to 1939
12 Lt.-Col.	H S Howarth	RLE	Asst. Dir	Chartered Structural Engineer Qualified Mining Engineer	1922-1939 Executive Engr. Jodhpur State. 1939-39 Manager and Technical Director engineering firms in India
13 Lt.-Col.	D C Meik	Ind Observer Corps.	Asst. Dir	B Sc Agriculture (Australia)	Knowledge of industrial and commercial conditions in India
14 Lt.-Col.	R M Manning	RE	Asst. Dir.		Civil Experience in Surveyor's Dept of construction Engineers.
15 Lt.-Col.	L Shahbaz Khan	14 Pun	Asst. Dir	M A Punjab University	Executive Officers and MEO under G of I from 1928 to 1944.
16 Lt.-Col.	W E I. Pettman	RE	Asst. Dir.	Civil Engineer	Regular Royal Engineer Officer
17 Major	J Aganoor	RE	DAD	Civil Engineer	Experience with Civil Engineers and Contractors. AGE ME Service from 1943 to joining L H & D May 1946
18 Major	R H Barnard	RLASC	DAD		10 years legal and estate management.
19 Major	G E Barton	ABRO	DAD	B Sc Eng M A Cambridge (Maths Tripos)	GSS Engineering Company in Assam 1943 On loan External Affairs Dept. 1944
20 Major	H. J. Babop	RE	DAD	Fellow Chartered Surveyors Inst Member of Royal Sanitary Inst Architect and Town Planner	Assistant to Private firm 1937 Own Practice 1933-39

Rank	Name	Unit	Appointment	Technical qualification	Practical experience
21. Major	N A Beard	RASC	DAD	Studied Estate Management (London University),	Land Agent 9 years UK
22. Major	C A Buxton	6 G/R	DAD	Final Rating and Valuation	Experience with Local Authorities in UK 1929 to 1940
23. Major	C W Care	RA	DAD	Member of Rating Surveyors Assn Fellow Royal Statistical Society, London	Rating Surveyor and Valuer 1920 to 1940
24. Major	T G Crosse	RA	DAD		Knowledge of systems of land tenure India and Estates Manager
25. Major	S. T Cox	RIE	DAD		10 years experience management lands in India
26. Major	R R Howarth	RE	DAD	Associate of Incorporated Assn of Rating and Valuation Offrs	Experience as Surveyor and Valuer with Local Authorities UK 1930 to 1939
27. Major	G W Kemp	RIE	DAD	Member Inst Civil Engineers	20 years experience on roads and buildings construction in India.
28. Major	E W Fisher	RE	DAD		20 years experience with Estate Dept Southern Railway (UK).
	E R G Lamburn	RE	DAD	Associate Antiquarians and Estate Agents Institute Studying Final Chartered Surveyors Institution	Experience as Surveyor. Estate Management etc from 1929 to 1944 CRE ME Services Jan 45 to joining L H & D June 1946
30. Major	G R Gerlach	RE	DAD	Registered Surveyor and Town Planner Member of Institute of Surveyors (Australia)	Experience in Survey and lands administration, Australia 1936 to 1945
31. Major	B G Marsh	RA	DAD		Survey Course - R A Jomed L H & D July 45

32. Major	S N Mubaya	RIE	DAD	LL B Passed Exam for ICS	Employed by L H & D on statistics Inspector of Statam Aota N. W Rly 1939/43
33. Major	M Malsunker	MAH	DAD		Six years experience with Cantonment Executive Service until joining L.H.&D. in April 1945
34. Major	H R Nook	RE	DAD	Articles Surveyor and Valuer Inter Auctioneers and Landed Pro- prietors	Five years experience with firm of Rating Surveyors and Valuers
35. Major	J G Stevewright	RIF	DAD		Local Land Agent Claims Commission, War Office 1941 to 1945 (Settling claims for damage to Lands, buildings, etc)
36. Major	H O Vigh	RIE	DAD		Quantity Surveyor in MES for 5 years
37. Capt	M Asersohn	Ind Gren	VLH&DO	Accountancy	Engaged on statistical work
38. Capt.	A J Butters	Mah L I	ALH&DO		Practical experience with L H & D. Ser- vice since December 1945
39. Capt	A W G Bard	RE	ALH&DO		Asst to Chartered Surveyor 6 1/2 years experience on W D Schedule Bills of Quantities, etc
40. Capt.	L J Barnes	GL	ALH&DO	Chartered Quantity Surveyor	Quantity Surveyor to private firm
41. Capt	J Barr	RE	ALH&DO	Student M I C E	6 years experience with Local Authori- ties in U K as Municipal Engineering Assistant
42. Capt	V Balakrishnan	Pa Corps	ALH&DO		8 years experience as Supervisor Surveyor & Estimator to Madras Corporation
43. Capt	R N Banerjee	11 Sikh	ALH&DO		
44. Capt	F H Belletti	9 Jat	ALH&DO	B A (Hons)	Land administration, Cantonment Exe- cutive Officer 1933 to 1942.

Rank	Name	Unit	Appointment	Technical qualification	Practical experience
45. Capt.	E. F. Bertram	RE	ALH&DO		14 years practical experience in Building & Public Works.
46. Capt.	S. A. B. Hamid	AIRO	ALH&DO	Departmental Law in Higher standards	1st Class Magistrate 12 years Land Revenue Officer, etc. 1929 to 1941.
47. Capt.	V. P. Hans	RE	ALH&DO	B Sc (Civil Engineering) (U.K.)	G. E. August 1945 to joining L.H. & D.
48. Capt.	J. Burrough	RE	ALH&DO		Assistant Civil Engineer
49. Capt.	I. J. Colyer	RE	ALH&DO		4 years experience as Civil Engineer (Surveying, estimating, etc.)
50. Capt.	R. F. Chapman	RE	ALH&DO	Student R. I. B. A.	Architect. 1 year Lands Branch, W.E. U.K. Civilian Garrison Engineer 1939 to 1943
51. Capt.	S. C. Chakravorty	RIE	ALH&DO	Assoc. Member Inst of Engineers (India) Regd. Surveyor & Valuer of Calcutta, High Court. B.E. (Civil) 1930	Civil Engineer and Valuer.
52. Capt.	J. A. V. Cavanaugh	RIE	ALH&DO		Over 20 years service with MRS
53. Capt.	D. W. Dunlop	RE	ALH&DO	Inter-Incorporated Accountants	Experience in Accountancy
54. Capt.	H. D. Das	RIE	ALH&DO	Diploma in Civil Engineering	Civil Experience from 1936 to 1942.
55. Capt.	N. K. Das	RIE	ALH&DO	Diploma in Civil Engineering	Civil Experience from 1928 to 1933 Construction Supervisor 1936 to 1943
56. Capt.	A. D. Fardon	RE	ALH&DO	Inter-Chartered Surveyors Inst	Land Agent, Surveyor, etc. 3 yrs
57. Capt.	H. W. Forshaw	RGR	ALH&DO		Experience with Civil Engineering Company.

58. Capt.	G N Francis	Ajmer Regt	ALH&DO	Estate Manager 20 years Knowledge of land valuation
59. Capt.	M S Grewal	IAOC	ALH&DO	Civil Engineering 1930 to 1941.
60. Capt.	S N Ghosh	RIE	ALH&DO	5 years experience as building Contractor.
61. Capt.	E Gooden	RA.	ALH&DO	5 years experience in valuation, etc., with Local Authorities in U K
62. Capt.	W E Hutton	RA	ALH&DO	24 years experience as Land and Mining Surveyor Survey work in the Army
63. Capt.	N Iram	RIE	ALH&DO	Experience in Civil Engineering Surveying, etc 1919-1940 A G E 1941 to 1945
64. Capt.	W A. Hatoley	RIE	ALH&DO	MES 1930 to date
65. Capt.	D C Lawless	RIASC	ALH&DO	24 years Lands and Holdings in Middle East in Iraq, Syria and Persia Joined LH&D India January 1945.
66. Capt.	S P Joga Rao	RIE	ALH&DO	Experience in Civil Engineering with Municipalities in India 1923 to 1943. A. G. E. 1943 to 1945
67. Capt.	Jalal Dun	RIE	ALH&DO	20 years experience in Military Engineering and accountancy.
68. Capt.	V. C. Jain	6 R.R.	ALH&DO	Practised Lawyer in Civil and Revenue Courts, Convent with laws of tenancy etc.
69. Capt.	S. A. Manning	R.E	ALH&DO	CRE. in U.K from 1939. Continuous experience with MES., to joining LH&D. in March 1945
70. Capt.	P G. Mitra	7 R.R.	ALH&DO	Accountancy.

Rank	Name	Unit	Appointment	Technical Qualifications	Practical Experience
71 Capt	P L Morada	10 Rajput.	ALH&DO		Business experience with private firms in connection with properties
72 Capt	R H J W Morton	RE	ALH&DO		Apprenticed Civil Engineer Now Assistant Civil Engineer
73 Capt	D A. Mowat	RA	ALH&DO		Civil Engineering Draughtsman
74 Capt	A. E. Muller	RE	ALH&DO	Civil Engineer	Civil Engineering
75 Capt	K. Namaswamyam	RIE	ALH&DO	Civil Engineer	11 pre-war experience in Madras PWD (Highway Dept.)
76 Capt	C W S Plant	RIE	ALH&DO		30 years training and experience in Civil Engineering
77 Capt	R D Rozario	RIE	ALH&DO	Civil Engineer	Experience in Military Engineering from August 1943 to September 1944
78 Capt	D D Robinson	RE	ALH&DO	Architect	Estate Agency Valuation Estimating Bill of Quantities, etc
79 Capt	K H Robinson	Royal Sussex	ALH&DO		34 years army experience dealing with properties in U.K.
80 Capt	K C Rajan Raju	Mah L I	ALH&DO	LL D	Advocate of High Court of Judicature Estate Management
81 Capt	T S. Swan	QOCH	ALH&DO		Experience with LH&D since June 1945
82 Capt	P K Swamy	MLI	ALH&DO		Accountancy
83 Capt	R J B Sneddon	KOSB	ALH&DO	Chartered Civil Engineer	Experience with firm of Chartered Civil Engineers
84 Capt	T B Shah	2nd Kumaon Regt	ALH&DO		Trained in Estate Management in Court of Wards, etc

85 Capt.	H. S. Sethi	7 Rajput	ALH&DO	B A	Assist in managing family property
86 Capt.	S. D. Satsangi	2 Punjab	ALH&DO	LL B 1931	Practised as Pleader in District Courts from 1932 to 1941
87 Capt.	T. R. R. Sundaram	RIE	ALH&DO	Degree in Engineering	A G E 1943 to 1944 Civil Engineer
88 Capt.	H. L. Vaid	RIE	ALH&DO	B Sc (Hons) Degree in Civil Engineering	Government Contractor and Civil Engineer 1935 to 1942
89 Capt.	L. F. Waller	GL	ALH&DO	Chartered Surveyor Associate of Auctioneers Inst	Land Agent and Valuer under W D 1941 to 1943
90 Capt.	T. H. F. Whiston	RA	ALH&DO	Professional Associate Chartered Surveyors Inst Associate Land Agent Society	Expertise with private firms.
91 Capt.	Rees O. T.	RE	ALH&DO	Diploma Inst Mech Eng and School of Mines	Experience as Surveyor and Engineer from 1937 to 1943
92 Capt.	H. C. Singh	RLASC	ALH&DO	B Sc	Registering Officer to U P Government
93 Capt.	I. C. Wright	RE	ALH&DO		3 yrs experience as Surveyors
94 Lieut.	S. D. Chaudhry	RIE	ALH&DO		Experience as Surveyor with Government concern
95 Lieut.	N. Kunhraman	RIE	ALH&DO	Civil Engineer	10 years experience
96 Lieut.	Protap Roy	RIE	ALH&DO	B Sc	Experience in Military Engineering 1943 to September 1944
97 Lieut.	J. D. Turner	Gen List	ALH&DO	Final of Auctioneers and Estate Agent's Inst	Experience with private firm
98 Lieut.	N. Winter	Gen List	ALH&DO	Chartered Accountant (Lond)	Experience in Property and Estate Accounts
99 Lieut.	P. F. C. Wynne	Gen List	ALH&DO		Land and Holdings in Middle East from February 43 to February 45 on transfer to LH&D India

Name	Appointment	Technical Qualifications	Practical Experience
100 Mr. C. R. Beale	Assistant Director	Chartered Surveyor & Estate Agents (Quantities and Rating) (F.A.S.I.) Fellow Valuers Association	Experience with firms in London and India
101 Mr. E. W. Poppo	Ditto	F.A.S.I. (Auctioneers Inst.)	Valuer, Surveyor and Estate Agent from 1927 onwards. Own business.
102 Mr. A. J. F. Albert	Ditto	English Bar Examinations (Hons) Legal	Legal practice 4 years
103 Mr. B. G. Abrahams	Deputy Assistant Director	Fellow Architect and Surveyors Assn. Institute of Arbitrators (Fellow) Associate of Society of Auctioneers & Landed Property Agents.	Company Administration and Management 9 years Experience as Architect and Surveyor 1928 to 1939
104 Mr. E. J. Littler	Ditto	Fellow Incorporated Society of Auctioneers and Landed Property Agents	Experience in Valuation and Surveys 1925 to 1945.
105 Mr. V. W. G. Barrell	Ditto	P.A.S.I. (Valuation) & A.I.	Experience in Valuation and Surveys 1934 to 1938.
106 Mr. P. G. White	Ditto	Fellow of Faculty of Architects and Surveyors Fellow of Valuers Institution.	Experience in Estate Management, Sales, Valuation etc., 1919 to 1939.
107 Mr. A. I. G. Harding	Ditto	Associate of Auctioneers and Estate Agents Institute	Branch Manager, Negotiator and Surveyor from 1936 to 1941.
108 Mr. L. P. Brooks	Ditto	(Inter) Chartered Surveyors Institution (Valuation)	Experience with firm of Chartered Surveyors and Bankers from 1923 to 1939
109 Mr. I. E. Hills	Ditto	P.A.S.I. (Valuations)	Experience in Management of landed estates, civil engineering and valuation from 1932 to 1940

110 Mr. E. B. Kilner	Ditto	Associate of Auctioneers and Landed Property Agents	Experience in management and sale of properties.
111 Mr. J. K. Brittain	Ditto	Fellow of Royal Geographical Society	
112 Mr. H. S. Gill	Ditto	Fellow Land Agents Society, Diploma in Agriculture and Estate Management	Agent for Landed Estates in U. K. from 1934 to 1940
113 Mr. L. A. Gallaher	Ditto	Inter Auctioneers and Estate Agents Examination.	Experience in building construction in U. K.
114 Mr. J. Porry	Ditto	Papers and Agreements awarded from India Office.	
115 Mr. A. H. M. Campion	Ditto	Papers and Agreements awarded from India Office	
116 Mr. J. D. Ferrow	Ditto	Degree in Civil Engineering	Deputy Chief Engineer and General Manager BBCI 1930 to 1946
117 Mr. A. Hinton	ALH&DO	Inter RIBA Architect and Surveyor (Articled) Member of Valuers Institution.	Experience with firm of Architects and Surveyors. Rating and Valuations from 1931 to 1937. Partnership with general professional practice 1937-40.
118 Mr. L. Serudwick	Ditto	Associate Auctioneers and Estate Agents Institute.	Professional experience with private firms and Government in U. K. and Australia from 1934 to 1946.
119 Mr. P. A. Greig	Ditto	Fellow Lands Agents Society (Qualified Associate 1944)	Land Agent in private practice from 1936 to 1939
120 Mr. E. Lake	Ditto	Member of Incorporated Society of Auctioneers and Landed Property Agents	From 1936 to 1939 experience in valuations, practical development and surveys, etc.
121 Mr. E. G. Brown	Ditto		Estimating and Directing conversion of London properties. Valuation of damage to Chateaux and fittings. Sale of London and Rome Comptess Hotels 1944-48 with Claims Commencement War Office.

Name	Appointment	Technical Qualifications	Practical Experience
122 Mr. G. Medding	ALH&DO	Final Auctioneers Institute	9 years experience with firm of Estate Agents, Valuer, Surveyor and Auctioneer
123 Mr. L. S. Gillard	Ditto	P. A. S. L. (Valuation) Town Planning Chamber Royal Sanitary Institute	1938 to 1944 Estate Management, Valuation and Surveying
124 Mr. H. F. Maitland	Ditto	Licentiate of Auctioneers Institution	Practical experience for 15 years in every branch of profession
125 Mr. L. A. Harrison	Ditto	F. A. L. P. A.	Experience with private firm from 1936 to 1940. Estate Surveyor, Ministry of works from 1940 to 1943
126 Mr. D. O. J. Duncan	Ditto	A. A. I. 1941	Experience in property management, valuations, surveys and auctions from 1932 to 1939
127 Mr. H. E. F. Miller	Ditto	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Valuation) Taking Final Examination	Negotiator with private firm specialising in investment. 1932 to 1935 Manager to private firm 1946
128 Mr. W. J. H. Shepherd	Ditto	P. A. S. I.	Professional Assistant to firm of Chartered Surveyors and Land Agents
129 Mr. H. O. Morris	Ditto		1934 to 1939 Surveyor, specialising in estate development, valuation for mortgage, dilapidations, Cost and Works Accountancy, Structural Engineering and building construction
130 Mr. J. B. Eastmore	Ditto		Practical knowledge and experience in matters relating to sales and leasing of real and personal estate, valuations estate management
131 Mr. D. G. Baker	.....	

132 Mr. K. L. Eaves . . .	Papers and Agreements awaited from India Office		
133 Mr. A. L. Russell			
134 Mr. A. D. Middleton			
135 Mr. E. Wood .			
136 Mr. J. E. Morganstern .	ALH&DO		Many years experience on land work in India—Bengal and Disputed Titles, Valuation of lands and assessment of rents, East Bengal
137 Mr. G. Robertson . .	ALH&DO	B Sc (Lond)	Worked in Burma 1914–1930 In U. K. 1930–33 In Burma 1936–42 In Assam 1942–45 with I T A
138 Mr. J. G. Brown .	ALH&DO		1930–34 Estate Agents and Valuers 1935–40 Civil Engineering in South America, Burma and India
139 Mr. G. N. Frattini	ALH&DO	B Sc (Lond)	1926 Agricultural Officer and Director of Propaganda in India, Burma and Ceylon 1935 to 45 Estate Manager, Calcut
140 Mr. S. F. Lee .	ALH&DO		Assistant Engineer (Gardens) Assam—5 years Mechanical Department Indian State Railways—8 years Construction Supervisor H. M. Office of Works U. K.—2½ years
141 Mr. H. Bhar .	ALH&DO	B E (Civil), C E (Diploma), A M I E (India)	1927–28 PWD Darjeeling 1931–32 Private firm of Surveyors and Valuers, then onward in private practice as Consulting Engineer, Surveyor and Valuer.
142 Mr. M. M. Banerjee .	ALH&DO	B E (India)	3 years with PWD as Assistant Engineer 4½ years as Assistant Controller of Purchase G of I (Supply Department)

Name	Appointment	Technical qualifications	Practical experience
143. Mr. S. D. Wason	ALH&DO	Associate of Institute of Structural Engineers (London), Member of Royal Sanitary Institute	20 years experience in civil and structural engineering
144. Mr. P. K. Ghosh	ALH&DO	B E (India), C E (India), A M I E	Assistant Assessor to Municipality 1940-49, Chief Surveyor and Valuer, Collector's Office 1943 to 46
145. Mr. R. J. Duseja	ALH&DO	Diploma in Municipal and County Engineering 1916 Assoc Member Soc of Civil and Mech Engineers 1921 Fellow Faculty of Architects, London 1917	P W D 1925 for eight years in India Over 10 years as Civil Engineer in different capacities
146. Mr. E. G. Lazarus	ALH&DO	Member of Institution of Electrical Engineers (Lond) 1928 Member of Institute of Engrs (India)	Assistant Engineer Manchester and India 1914-19 Consulting Engineer Construction, Buildings, etc 1919-27, Planning Engineer, acquisition of sites 1927 to 42
147. Mr. B. M. Malla	ALH&DO	B E (Civil) (India)	25 years experience in engineering surveying and estimating
148. Mr. T. V. Sundaresan	ALH&DO	Inst of Civil Engrs (Lond) Inst of Structural Engrs (Eng), etc	1921 to 45 Engineering experience with municipalities and railways
149. Mr. T. S. Jotwani	ALH&DO	B E (Hons) Eng, B Sc	Consulting Surveyor for valuation of building and lands from 1927 to 1945
150. Mr. J. Chanda	ALH&DO	Qualified in cadastral survey and settlement operations, I Sc and B Sc	22 years experience with Government and Industrial firms (Tatas)
151. Mr. M. B. Ghosh	ALH&DO	B Sc and M Sc, B A	Experience in City Planning, survey and valuation
152. Mr. H. R. Vaid	ALH&DO	B A, B E	P W D 1914-1928 Civil Engineering 1928-1941 Civilian AGE in MES from 1941-1945

153 Mr. D. R. Kalia	ALH&DO	Diploma in Civil Engineering (Lond.)	Assistant Engineer 1922 to 1945
154 Mr. S. R. Palande	ALH&DO	B E (Civl)	18 years P. W. D. Consulting Engineer in private practice and estate agent.
155 Mr. R. J. Ponnus	ALH&DO	Bach. of Agriculture	Farm and Estate Management
156 Mr. N. Bann	ALH&DO	B Sc in Engineering, A M I C E, A M I T M I E	Civil Engineer with Municipal Authorities and private firms 1923 to 1946
157 Mr. U. G. Dutta	ALH&DO		Retired District Magistrate, many years experience in valuation of lands both agriculture and homestead type
158 Mr. J. F. Gantzer, M.B.E.	ALH&DO	Retired Civil Servant	Civil Service, Assistant settlement Officer, etc.
159 Mr. S. J. Mahajan	ALH&DO	Assoc Member of Inst Engineers (India), B.Sc (Hons.), Diploma in Civil Engr 1st Class	5 years M.E.S. 2½ years Ceylon Government 3 to 4 years M.E.S
160 Mr. E. Arndt	ALH&DO		Trained in U.K. as Structural Engineer Joined CPWD 1941
161 Mr. G. C. Roy	ALH&DO	B E (Civl), (Ind)	8 years experienced in Civil Engineering with private firms
162 Mr. K. S. Sankararaman	ALH&DO	B.L. and M.L. (Law)	Legal Officer with L.H. & D
163 Mr. M. A. D'Souza	ALH&DO	B.Sc., B.E. (Civl)	Engineering Assistant 1936-37 Ward Engineer Building Dept 1937-44
164 Mr. C. H. Munias Hussain	ALH&DO	A M I E.	Experience as Garrison Engineer M.E.S
165 Mr. S. V. R. Bise	ALH&DO	Diploma in Electrical Engr., A M I S E, A M I C E, B.E., B.Sc.	Electrical Engineering and steel construction work Commissioned in India Army
166 Mr. Bhagat Ram	ALH&DO		11 years experience in property management, dealing with assessment, execution of leases, etc
167 Mr. K. S. Muddur	ALH&DO	B.E., 3 years study U.K.	Engineering experience from 1936 to 1939 Civilian C.E. 1943-44

The following officers are employed on the administrative work of L&A D. Directorate and Service —

Rank	Name	Unit
168 Major	W J Morris	R I A S C
169 Captain	W L Ash	Gen List
170 Captain	B W Mason	I A C C
171 Captain	W R Phillips	I A C C
172 Captain	J E Ross	I A C C
173 Captain	I R Kapoor	I A C C
174 Lieut	C Hind	I A C C
175 Lieut	M E English	I A C C
176 Lieut	H E Lawrence	I A C C
177 Lieut	F H Collins	I A C C
178 Lieut	R Handyside	I A C C
179 Lieut	K A Menon	I A C C
180 Lieut	S T Baker	R I A S C
181 Lt Col	A E Wilson	Middle East 1939 to 1944 Came over with Maj Gen HAYES to inaugurate Landis and Hings in Oct 1944 to date (Gen List)

APPENDIX II

[Vide page 960 ante]

No 1/2/46 POLITICAL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 4th March, 1946

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the Provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to General Fleming and Mr T H Macdonald of the Government of the United States of America for so long as they remain in India

A W LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/4/46 POLITICAL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, (3), the 11th April, 1946

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939) the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the Provisions of

rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to or in relation to,

- (1) Mr. Thomas W. Simons, Senior Economic Analyst to the American Consulate General at Calcutta and his wife,
 - (2) Miss Minnie Gay Cox, Clerk at the American Consulate General at Calcutta,
 - (3) Mr. George K. Murray, Clerk at the American Consulate General at Bombay, and
 - (4) Miss Anne Hiers, Clerk at the American Consulate General at Calcutta,
- for so long as they retain their present employment

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/4/46 POLITICAL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 17th May, 1946

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the Provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners shall not apply to, or in relation to Mrs. Ralph Block, wife of Mr. Ralph Block, Principal Public Affairs Officer of the American Mission in India, and her daughter Bridget Block, for so long as they remain in India.

F SINGH,

No 1/4/46 POLITICAL (E),

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi the 3rd June 1946

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the Provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to or in relation to Messrs. George Oswald Barraclough and Robert Louis Welk, United States Government officials of the Foreign Liquidation Commission, for so long as they retain their present employment.

F SINGH,

No 1/13/46-POLITICAL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi—3, the 27th August 1946

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the Provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr. Stanley E. Chartrand, Assistant Public Affairs Officer, American Consulate in Madras and Miss Ruth A. Grover, clerk, American Consulate General at Calcutta, for so long as he/she is employed in his/her present post.

F SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
No 1/14/46 POLITICAL (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT

[13TH NOV 1946]

New Delhi—3, the 27th August 1946

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the Provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr Terence W MacDermott of the United Nations Organisation

F SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/16/46 POLITICAL (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 10th September, 1946

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the Provisions of rule 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to

Mr Douglas Le Roy Edwards—Miss Eugenia A Richards,Mr John Korhis,

for so long as he is employed in the United State's Foreign Liquidation Mission
American Consulate General, Bombay,
United States Mission New Delhi
F SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/14/46 POLITICAL (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 17th September, 1946

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the Provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Phyllis Elizabeth Somerville, Private Secretary to Mr Terence W MacDermott of the United Nations Organisation

F SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/16/46 POLITICAL (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 25th September, 1946

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the Provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Beth Elene Davis, for so long as she is employed in the American Mission, New Delhi

F SINGH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

**Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State
are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THURSDAY, 14th NOVEMBER, 1946

Vol. VIII—No. 3

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 14th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven o'clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

- Mr. Jose Forbes Ormiston, M.L.A., (Nominated Non-Official), and
- Mr. Mangalore Purushotham Patil C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

MOLESTATION OF WOMEN BY RAILWAY POLICE AT VICTORIA TERMINUS, BOMBAY

523. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: With reference to the reply to part c) of starred question No. 685, dated the 5th March, 1946, by Sriyut D. K. Jadhav Chaudhury, relating to molestation of women by Railway Police at Victoria Terminus, Bombay, will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if the investigation has been completed? If so, with what result?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The investigation shows that no written complaint was made by the party concerned to the Railway Station Staff. A complaint was made direct to the Railway Police at Victoria Terminus and a case against the Chief Head Watchman was registered by the Police on the 2nd October 1945 under Section 120 of the Indian Railways Act and Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code. The case was tried in the court of the Honorary Presidency Magistrate Bombay, and was compounded and the accused acquitted. As a result of this incident, the conduct of the Chief Head Watchman was departmentally investigated and he was removed from service.

ADULTERATION OF PURE GHEE

524. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state if it is a fact that the latent colouration of Vanaspathi has been enforced to prevent its use for the adulteration of pure ghee?

Mr. B. B. Sen: Action is being taken to enforce latent colourisation of Vanaspathi with effect from 1st January 1947.

SUPPLY OF SUB-SOIL WATER FOR IRRIGATION

525. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state the steps taken by Government (i) to develop the possibilities of getting adequate supplies of sub-soil water for irrigation purposes in the alluvial tracts particularly in the Indo-gangetic plains, and (ii) to survey the sub-soil supplies of irrigation water in the non-alluvial tracts of India?

Mr. B. B. Sen: Subsidies have been given for the construction of 600 tube-wells in the U.P. and 76 in Bihar. As the manual boring rigs were found unsuitable for the hard strata found in many areas, eleven mechanically operated rigs have been imported. An expert was brought out from America to advise about the work to be undertaken. As a result a new type of well will now be constructed which will be cheaper and give more water. A training

class has been started to teach the proper use of mechanically operated rigs Steps are being taken to obtain some 80 more rigs from abroad. When these rigs are received and the staff trained, some of them will be used for undertaking survey operations in the non-alluvial tracts

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member said some wells are dug in U P. and Bihar; may I know what is being done in other provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The provinces are being taken up according to the enthusiasm shown by the provinces themselves. The provinces where tube-wells up to now have been tried are the U P., Bihar, North-Western Frontier Province, Punjab and also the State of Baroda.

Seth Govind Das: As nothing has been done so far in the Central Provinces will Government take some steps to provide tube-wells for that province also?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir, if there is a demand from that province we shall certainly consider it. The whole scheme is before all the provinces.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Did I understand the Honourable Member to say that mechanical rigs were used anywhere in India for boring wells?

Mr. B. R. Sen: These rigs have just been brought out and they have been sent out to two or three provinces. We have not had the results yet, but from the results of these rigs in other countries we think they will be suitable in Indian conditions.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Is it a fact that these rigs are merely being used in a drilling school somewhere in Bihar and not one of them is working anywhere in the provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Out of these eight rigs two have been sent to Meerut, three to Bihar, one to Punjab, and two have been kept for the Central drilling school at Roorkee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask if any attempts are being made to tap the sub-soil water in the famine districts—the Ceded Districts and Chittoor—in the Madras Presidency?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall require notice of that question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what kind of subsidy the Central Government gives to the provinces in the matter of tube-wells?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall give a reply to that question later on in the day.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: Have Government got a tube-well programme? If so, what is the total number of tube-wells contemplated to be constructed and in what period?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No comprehensive programme for the country as a whole has yet been drawn up by the Central Government. The provinces have been given the scheme of subsidy and they have been asked to come up with their tube-well schemes and ask for grants.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF RETURN AND ZONE TICKETS ON RAILWAYS

†526. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state, if the Railway Administrations are considering the desirability of re-introducing the system of Return and Zone Tickets? If so, by what time is it expected that these systems will come into operation again?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to Question No 117 given on 31st of October 1946. Return tickets were amongst the pre-war concessions, available generally to the travelling public. Zone tickets on the other hand, were in a somewhat different category being of the nature of season tickets. Consideration can only be given to the reintroduction of zone tickets after the general pre-war concessions have been revived and have been in force sufficiently long to enable their effect on travel conditions to be gauged.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

SHORTAGE OF PRINTED TICKETS AT STATIONS ON E I, RAILWAY

†527. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) if there is a dearth of printed Railway tickets at many stations on the East Indian Railway,

(b) the reasons for this shortage,

(c) if great delay is caused by Booking Clerks writing out on forms,

(d) if there is jamming at Booking Offices in consequence, and trains are missed by passengers in consequence, and

(e) what steps, if any, Government are taking to obviate this evil?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes

(b) The reason for the shortage of printed tickets is the increased demand and the shortage on the East Indian Railway has been aggravated by a Strike of their Press employees, which occurred in October, 1945, and lasted six weeks. Since this Strike, there has also been a consistent reduction in the output of the Press

(c) Yes, delay does occur in filling in blank paper tickets in manuscript

(d) Precise information on this point is not available with the East Indian Railway authorities, but there is reason to believe that inconvenience and delay are caused at booking office windows on account of the use of Blank Paper Tickets necessitated by the shortage of printed tickets

(e) Printing of Card Tickets is a specialised work. All possible steps have been taken to increase the supply of printed card tickets by obtaining assistance from Presses of other railways. Every effort is also being made to increase the output of tickets in the E I Railway Printing Press

ISSUE OF TICKETS BY TRAVELLING TICKETS EXAMINERS TO *BONAFIDE* PASSENGER

†528. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that T T E are not allowed to give tickets to passengers who have been unable to obtain tickets even though without any fault of their own, and

(b) if Government propose to re-introduce the old system of enabling T T E's to give such tickets to *bona fide* passengers without charging any penalty?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) No. Travelling Ticket Examiners are not provided with ordinary tickets but issue Excess Fare tickets to passengers who are not in possession of tickets

(b) The question of re-introducing the former practice of granting certificates which would enable Travelling Ticket Examiners to issue Excess Fare tickets without including the excess charge leviable under the Railways Act will be considered as soon as travel conditions have eased sufficiently to permit it

PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR TRUNK TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE ACCOUNTS OFFICER, CENTRAL TELEPHONE REVENUE ACCOUNTING OFFICE, DELHI

†529. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state

(a) if it is a rule that all bills for trunk calls from all over India are sent by the Accounts Officer, Central Telephone Revenue Accounting Office, Delhi;

(b) if copies of these bills are sent to Telephone Supervisors in various districts as soon as they are sent to local subscribers;

(c) if the local offices are required to remind local subscribers of these bills; and if so, what interval of time is allowed for payment, between the receipt of the bills and the reminding.

(d) if local offices keep on reminding long after the bills have actually been paid and subscribers are required to give the actual numbers of Post Office receipts if they have paid the bills, and

(e) if Government propose to consider the advisability of decentralising the system and protect the subscribers from being reminded of bills already paid, by telephone calls in the midst of important work?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) No The Honourable Member is clearly referring to the position as it was before April 1943. Since that time the policy has been revised and action has been taken gradually to decentralise the Telephone Revenue Accounting work.

(b) No

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The Honourable Member is apparently referring to the case of defaulting subscribers. The local telephone exchange is required to remind such defaulters over the telephone and this is generally done about a fortnight after the receipt of the bills by the subscribers.

(d) No. The procedure is that if the local exchange is unable to gain contact with a defaulting subscriber over the telephone, a written notice is sent by registered post asking the subscriber concerned to arrange payment within two days of receipt of the notice, and to inform the exchange of the day upon which and the office in which payment has been made. The telephone is proscribed after the expiry of the days of grace.

(e) As stated in the reply to (a), the policy of decentralisation has already been accepted and the trunk call bills for Calcutta, Bombay, Ahmedabad and Delhi exchanges and for the exchanges in the Madras Circle are now issued by the appropriate District and General Managers. It has also been decided to decentralise the telephone billing work of the Assam Bengal and Bombay Circles but the decision has not yet been put into effect owing to difficulty in obtaining accommodation.

RUNNING OF INTER CLASS SLEEPING COACHES BETWEEN BENARES CANTONMENT AND HOWRAH ON E I RAILWAY

'530. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) if Inter-class sleeping coaches run between Benares Cantonment and Howrah by the 15 Up and 16 Down Expresses of the East Indian Railway,

(b) if the experiment has been a success,

(c) the number of similar coaches the Railway possesses,

(d) if the system would be extended, and similar coaches run with similar conditions on other trains also, and

(e) if other Railways also have similar coaches and whether Government propose to make similar arrangements on these Railways?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) The East Indian Railway have three such coaches, all in service, on Nos 15 Up and 16 Dn Express trains

(d) Yes. It is the intention to extend similar services to other trains on the release of certain Ward cars at present utilised by the Defence Department

(e) Other Government Railways providing sleeping accommodation for Inter Class passengers are the—

B A Railway—(i) the Up and Down Darjeeling Mail trains running between Calcutta and Siliguri,

and S I Railway—On the Up and Down Indo-Ceylon Express trains, running between Madras (Egmore) and Dhanushkodi via Tanjore

The provision of sleeping accommodation for a considerable number of passengers to whom the facility is not at present available is under consideration in connection with the Railway Board's post war coach design. The financial implications of providing this amenity are also under examination. It is anticipated that the provision of such amenities cannot be separated from the question of increasing fares.

FIXATION OF PURCHASE PRICE OF PADDY BY BENGAL BIHAR AND U P GOVERNMENTS

531 Mr Madandhari Singh Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) the price fixed for the purchase of paddy by the Governments of Bengal Bihar and United Provinces and

(b) whether there is any difference if so what the reasons are for that?

Mr B R Sen (i) A statement giving the purchase prices of paddy in Bihar and Bengal is laid on the table of the House. The United Provinces do not make direct purchases of paddy.

(b) The reason for disparity in rice and paddy prices in the U P, Bihar and Bengal is that markets in different parts of the country reacted differently to security conditions created by the War and the incidence of inflation in price was not uniform. As a result of efforts made by the Central as well as Provincial Governments these disparities have since been narrowed down considerably though the price disparity has not yet been eliminated.

Statement of the purchase of paddy in Bihar and Bengal

Bihar		Balk		Unit	
				R	A P
				C	0 0
B	P	Area	Price	Unit	
District		Mile	C		
		Rs.	A	P	
Dinaj	}				
Jalpaigir		1			2 0
Rang					11 d 10
Mallik Bgr	}	14 0			
Darjeeling Sub Divn					
Bahadur	}	4 0		0	
Khulna				0	
Mymensingh	}	4 0		0	
Jeore					
Nadia	}	4 0		0 0	
Murhidabad					
Pabna	}				
Fardpur		6 4 0		0 0 0	
(Gopalganj Sub Divn)					

Bengal	Aman	Paddy	Aus Paddy
Districts	Medium	Coarse	
	Rs. A P.	Rs. A P.	Rs. A P.
Fridpur (Sadar, Goalundo and Madaripur Sub-Divn.)	6 8 0	6 4 0	
Dacca	6 8 0	6 4 0	
Chittagong	6 12 0	6 8 0	
Midnapore			
Burdwan	6 8 0	6 4 0	
Birbhum			
Bankura			
Hooghly			
Howrah	6 14 0	6 10 0	
24 Parganas			

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if these disparities have affected the procurement of foodgrains? If so, to what extent?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No, Sir, it is not our information that the disparity of prices has affected procurement operations.

PASSENGER TRAIN AT NIGHT BETWEEN BADNERA AND AMRAOTI ON G. I. P. RAILWAY

532. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state.

(a) if it is a fact that there is no train between Badnera and Amraoti to carry passengers for the shuttle trains stopping at Badnera and that passengers reaching Badnera station have to wait for the whole night before they could get a train for Amraoti,

(b) if it is a fact that only light engine comes from Amraoti to Badnera after 9 P.M. and again goes back to Amraoti at about 4 A.M. to bring the mail passengers, if so, why the engine is not used for bringing passengers to Badnera for the shuttle trains and taking passengers to Amraoti;

(c) whether Government are aware of the great inconvenience and hardship experienced by the passengers owing to the absence of passenger trains at night between Badnera and Amraoti connecting the shuttle trains, and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to issue instructions to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to maintain a connecting train between Badnera and Amraoti for every passenger train on the main line?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) No Sir. There are suitable connections with Badnera-Amraoti trains for all trains stopping at Badnera. It is not correct that passengers detraining at Badnera have to wait all night to get a connection to Amraoti.

(b) The engine after making the last trip in the evening to Amraoti returns to Badnera without a load or with a goods load if offering, for stabling as there are no shed facilities at Amraoti station.

(c) and (d) Since, as stated in reply to part (a), there are suitable connections at Badnera, the question of hardship and inconvenience to passengers does not arise, nor is it necessary for Government to issue instructions to the G. I. P. Railway Administration on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member.

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I know if there is a connecting train at night for the shuttle train reaching Badnera?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As far as I know there are at least six shuttle trains running between BhusaVal and Badnera

Mr. P. B. Gole: Is there any connecting train for this shuttle from Badnera to Amraoti?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, Sir

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I know the timings of these trains?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I shall require notice of that question

SUPPLY OF RAILWAY WAGONS

533. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many wagons have been added in the course of the current official year by (i) import, (ii) rehabilitation, and (iii) new wagons made in India?

(b) How many more are expected to be so added?

(c) What was the total figure of wagons in India before the war and how does the present figure compare with it?

(d) What is the additional quantity which Government have estimated as required to deal with the traffic at the peak period?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) (i) 6836 Broad Gauge general service wagons

(ii) Rehabilitation which is continuously undertaken in Railway Workshops does not add to the amount of stock available, as the percentage under repairs fluctuates only to a very small degree throughout the year

(iii) 2308 B G general service wagons

47 B G special type wagons

26 M G general service wagons

(b) (i) *By Import*.—4200 B G general service wagons

(ii) *Indigenous Manufacture*.—2074 B G general service wagons

252 B G special type wagons

160 M G general service wagons

(c) The figures of wagons pre-war and as on the 1st October 1946 compare as follows —

	Pre-War		As on 1-10-1946	
	General wagons Service	Special type wagons	General Service wagons	Special type wagons
B G	137,772	9,309	165,914	11,240
M G.	43,111	3,613	48,579*	3,443*

(* Of these 3,944 General Service wagons and 383 Special type wagons were imported under Lend/Lease for the War Department.)

(d) An increase of 20 per cent over the pre-war figure in the case of Broad Gauge General Service wagons and ten per cent increase in the case of Metre Gauge General Service wagons is estimated sufficient to meet the post-war traffic requirements at the peak period, but it will be appreciated that this estimate may need to be modified as necessity arises

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the availability of wagons in very large number which the Honourable Member has said as compared with pre-war period, may I know why there should still be complaint with regard to the shortage of wagons and why the whole system of priority should still be necessary to be maintained?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: In so far as the question of priority is concerned, I may assure my Honourable friend that the whole question is going to be considered very shortly and the entire priority system will most probably go by March 1947.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member, if he has got ready at hand, give me the information or perhaps supply it later as to the comparative price of the standard B G wagon as imported and as made in this country?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I must have notice of that question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether Government is going to consider the question of manufacturing all locomotives in India, particularly in view of the fact that this question has been discussed every year in this House and assurances have been given to this effect?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Although this question does not arise out of the question that has been put to me, I am very glad to reply to my Honourable friend and assure him that ever since I have come into office I have been concentrating on the manufacture in India of not merely locomotives but every single thing that is required by the Railways in India.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: With reference to part (a) of the question may I know from which countries wagons have been imported?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Some of these orders were placed in the United Kingdom and I believe some orders were placed in Australia.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: What tonnage was handled in the pre-war period and what is the present tonnage?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is a very large question and I must have notice of it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any of these wagons are being manufactured departmentally?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What percentage?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I do not carry all these figures on the tip of my tongue all the time, but if you put down a question I will give the necessary information.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: With reference to part (b) of the question in reply to which the Honourable Member has given the number of wagons expected may I know what is the period within which the wagons are expected?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I require notice of that question too.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any wagons have been taken over from the War Department?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, Sir. All wagons and coaches with the War Department are being released from time to time and we are constantly pressing the War Department to release as many wagons as they possibly can, and more quickly than they have done.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: What is the number of wagons still on loan with the War Department?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I want notice of that question.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: How does the Honourable Member propose to reach the optimum figure?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: What exactly is the idea of the Honourable Member with regard to optimum figure?

Mr. President: The question is not clear. Will the Honourable Member repeat his question?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: May I know from the Honourable Member how he wants to reach the optimum figure, in what way and in what period?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Optimum figure regarding what ?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Optimum figure as the Honourable Member has stated in part (d), namely 20 per cent additional wagons are necessary to meet the traffic at the peak period.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: They are made from time to time. These are our requirements and we are meeting our requirements in whichever way we possibly can. I think the actual question was what additions we expected and I have told the House what additions we expected.

SUPPLY OF TIMBER FROM BURMA, ANDAMANS AND INDIAN FORESTS

534. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how much timber has arrived from (1) Burma, and (2) Andamans?

(b) What steps are Government taking for the supply of building timber for the building trade in India from these sources as well as from the Indian forests?

(c) How much surplus timber was there with the Military for the Disposals Department?

(d) How much of this has been disposed of?

(e) Has it been disposed of to merchants or consumers?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (1) (i) So far as I am aware, no timber has arrived till now from Burma. 4,000 tons of Teak Wood are, however, expected before the end of this year.

(ii) As regards timber from the Andamans, I understand that the following quantities have been exported to Indian Ports from the time of re-occupation of Andamans up to the 6th November 1946 —

(i) Logs for Match Industry	4,415 tons
(ii) Sawn Scantlings	1,471
(iii) Sawn Squares	1,097
(iv) Mill Logs	1,381
(v) Manufactured Match Splints	464

(In equivalent quantity
Match Logs)

Total	8,831 tons
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(b) The control over the distribution of timber was lifted with effect from the 1st January 1946. No figures are, therefore, available of the quantity of timber which has become available for the building trade. It may, however, be assumed that a substantial portion of the material has been, or will be utilised for building purposes. I may add that during the period January to August 1946, issues of timber by the L & S Department to various Provinces and States amounted to 314,445 tons. The major portion of this quantity must have gone to the trade.

(c) No surpluses have been reported by the Northern, Central or Eastern Commands. In the case of Southern Command, the Engineer-in-Chief has been authorised to dispose of, under M.E.S. regulations, surplus timber lying in that Command as the stock in general is centred at various stations not within easy reach of the Regional Commissioner (Disposals), Bombay. The following quantities of timber stocks have been declared surplus by the Quarter Master General

Sleepers	3,15,476
Wooden blocks	2,150
Metre Gauge Block	19

(d) and (e) 20,000 sleepers have been sold to Government of Madras for famine relief work

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the Government's declared policy of assisting building as a means of absorbing unemployed people and demobilized soldiers, will the Honourable Member make clear what specific assistance has been given to the building trade? He mentioned that the amount has gone to the trade, that is the general merchants. My question refers to the desirability of giving suitable timber for building houses to those who are actually building houses, and not to the merchants.

Mr. M. P. Pai: The present arrangement is to dispose of this timber through the Provincial Governments, and it has been emphasized upon them that a high priority should be given for building purposes. Presumably they are doing all, they can to see that these go for building purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government take special steps, having regard to the importance of building houses, in this country to import larger quantities both from the Andamans and from Burma of a suitable quality, and will they particularly take steps to prohibit the export of any timber from this country, as I know specifically that some timber has gone out of this country during the last six months.

Mr. M. P. Pai: The suggestion will be borne in mind.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I therefore take it that the Regional Commissioner of Disposals, Bombay, will not be disposing of this timber and that the Provincial Government will do so?

Mr. M. P. Pai: Not as regards the timber in the Southern Command but other timber owned by Government will be disposed of by the Bombay Government.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: May I know from the Honourable Member whether he is aware of the fact that the Standing Finance Committee granted money for the rehabilitation of the Andamans on condition that the timber should be first exported into India and when Indian needs are met then only to other countries?

Mr. M. P. Pai: That is actually the case I believe. I do not think timber is exported from the Andamans to other countries.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: The Andamans should export timber to India and to no other country.

Mr. M. P. Pai: That is the position.

Mr. President: That he believes to be the position.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member said that no timber has been recently imported from Burma. May I know whether any timber is going to be imported from Burma in the near future?

Mr. M. P. Pai: I have already said that we forecast that we will receive 4,000 tons by the end of the year. A programme is being worked out for receipts during the next year.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On what basis is allocation made to the various provinces of this quantity?

Mr. M. P. Pai: I want notice of that.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it a fact that the timber lying in the Bombay Depots has been sold by the Regional Commissioner directly to the merchants and not through the Provincial Governments?

Mr. M. P. Pai: At some stage that might have been done. I will not say that no timber has been sold by him. At present negotiations are going on with the Bombay Government. The Bombay Government were not interested in taking over this timber in the same way as other Provincial Governments, but they have offered to dispose of this timber on behalf of the Government of India, and the matter is under consideration, and I think the disposal work will be entrusted to him.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: What will happen to such timber which will remain in the depot not accepted by the Bombay Government? Will it be sold by tenders or private negotiations by the Regional Commissioner?

Mr. M. P. Pai: Details have not been settled, but it has been said that the Bombay Government should dispose of them

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any truth in the rumour that some of the Andamans timber is being exported to England?

Mr. M. P. Pai: No such rumour has come to my notice. But I will certainly enquire.

FACTORIES FOR RADIOS, FILMS, REFRIGERATORS AND TYPEWRITERS IN INDIA

535. *Mr. Mannu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how many companies or factories have been projected in India for the manufacture of (i) radios, (ii) films, (iii) refrigerators, and (iv) typewriters?

(b) How many of them have been assured by Government with permission to import equipment and machinery and with dollars or hard currency?

(c) When will these manufactures start and if there is any progress in any of them, what is the progress?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) A statement showing the names of the companies, which have received consent to issue capital, is placed on the table. This does not include companies with a capital of under five lakhs regarding which Government have no information.

(b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(c) Government have no information about the progress made by the promoters of raw film companies. As regards other industries no progress is reported to have been made except that some of the Radio manufacturing companies are likely to go into production by the middle of 1947.

List of companies manufacturing Radios referred to in part (a)

- 1 Radios Limited
- 2 Motwane Radio Manufacturing Co., Ltd
- 3 Radio and Electricals, Ltd
- 4 Electronics, Ltd
- 5 Hindustan Radio Manufacturing Co., Ltd
- 6 Excelson Air conditionings and Refrigeration Co., Ltd
- 7 Hindustan Radios, Ltd
- 8 Mysore Airmec, Ltd
- 9 National Radios and Engineering, Co., Ltd
- 10 Radio Corporation of India, Ltd

List of companies manufacturing Raw films

- 1 Foto Products, Ltd
- 2 Cine Photo crafts, Ltd
- 3 Gaumont-Kalash Ltd
- 4 Banal Photographic Industries (India), Ltd
- 5 Tropic-Sensitising Corporation, Ltd
- 6 Foto Papers, Ltd
- 7 Famous Cine Laboratories & Studios, Ltd
8. Bengal Studio, Ltd

List of companies manufacturing Refrigerators

- 1 Hindustan General Electrical Corporation, Ltd
- 2 Air Conditioning Appliances, Ltd
- 3 Gaumont-Kalke, Ltd
- 4 Radio and Electricals, Ltd
- 5 Mitchell Electricals (India), Ltd
- 6 Excelsior Air-conditioning & Refrigeration, Co., Ltd
- 7 Air Conditioning Corporation Ltd
- 8 B & C Osler (India), Ltd
- 9 Radio Corporation of India Ltd

List of companies manufacturing Typewriters

- 1 Asiatic General Industries, Ltd
- 2 Typewriters Ltd
- 3 Orient Typewriter Industries, Ltd
- 4 M/s Kaicker's Typewriter Exchange Ltd

Mr Manu Subedar: In view of the experience in this country during the war with regard to raw films which were not available for the cinema production companies and with regard to typewriters which were not available to the business community, will Government take any special steps to encourage the production of these two articles in this country and if necessary to help those who are undertaking these somewhat hazardous enterprises?

Mr M P Pai: I only offer to take that suggestion into consideration.

MANUFACTURE OF TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT IN INDIA

536. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether Government have undertaken the manufacture of the whole telephonic equipment in India in the Government work shops?

(b) In view of the inconvenience felt during the war through the shortage of telephone instruments, what steps do Government propose to take in the interests of India to render India self-sufficient in the matter of the telephonic equipment?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) No, not the whole equipment.

(b) At present the Posts and Telegraphs Department manufactures in its own Workshops, its main requirements of manual telephone exchange equipment and hand-micro telephone sets. The principal line construction stores (posts, brackets, fittings, etc.) are also produced in the Departmental Workshops, insulators and the wire required for line construction are purchased from Indian manufacturing concerns. Automatic telephone exchange equipment, long distance telephone equipment and certain parts of the telephone instruments are still imported, but it is the policy of the Department to encourage the manufacture of this apparatus also by Indian enterprise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: During the war I raised this issue and I was informed by this Government that Anstala was manufacturing the old telephone and that the Indian Government would take steps to have the whole telephone manufactured here in their workshops. May I know why that undertaking given on the floor of this House has not been carried out?

Sir Harold Shobert: Sir, we are manufacturing all that we can in the Posts and Telegraphs workshops according to sound financial principles. It is only the more complicated types of apparatus which we are unable to manufacture. As I have already said that comprises long distance telephone equipment, teleprinters and machinery of that kind. If we attempted to undertake in the Posts and Telegraphs workshops manufacture of this complicated type of equipment,

there would not be sufficient demand for it in India to justify the installation of research organizations, manufacturing organization, and the import or manufacture of machinery for that purpose. On the other hand, if private enterprise is willing to undertake that Government would be only too pleased to take from the private enterprise all its necessities.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am very unhappy to hear this official wisdom from my Honourable friend. Having regard to the security and defence conditions in this country during the war, you were short of telephones. Is it not desirable to suspend those financial considerations for the time being and to undertake the manufacture even of those parts? Does Government expect a private individual to undertake those things which Government on financial considerations are afraid to undertake?

Sir Harold Shoobert: I have no doubt that Government will take into consideration the points which have been made by the Honourable Member. In the Communications Department we have been concerned with producing all that was possible as I said according to sound financial policy. It is difficult to do any more. This telecommunication equipment is of an extraordinary complicated nature and it needs extraordinary complicated machinery, and it would mean, I am afraid, foreign experts to supervise. But that is a matter of broader policy which I feel is for the Finance Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the feelings on this subject, everywhere in the country, as was reflected during the last session, will the Honourable Member go into this question and give a statement to the House at the beginning of the next session as to the specific reasons why Government will not undertake the manufacture of the whole telephone equipment in this country?

Sir Harold Shoobert: I have already stated the specific reasons but I am certainly willing to have the matter examined further and to give details to my Honourable friend which might convince him of the wisdom of the policy which has hitherto been followed. I may say that Government is not a trading concern and it might be possible to manufacture this long distance equipment and to sell it to other countries but that is hardly the business of even a department like the Posts and Telegraphs run on commercial lines.

DAILY AIR SERVICE BETWEEN DELHI AND MADRAS

537 **Haj. Abdus Sattar Haj. Ishaq Seth:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal for running a daily air service between Delhi and Madras,

(b) whether Government are aware that the present three weekly service is found very inadequate and there is great demand for the expansion of this service, and

(c) whether there are proposals for the extension of this service from Madras to other parts of Southern India including Malabar and if so, what those proposals are?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) The Air Transport Licensing Board have received applications for the grant of licences for the operation of daily air transport services between Delhi and Madras from some companies. These will be taken up for consideration by the Board during this month. The Deccan Airways Ltd., are operating an air service between Delhi and Madras three times a Week under a Provisional licence.

(b) The traffic figures available for the existing Delhi-Madras service show that of the total capacity available only 31 per cent is being utilised, the balance of 69 per cent going empty. The present frequency can not therefore, be considered inadequate. No representation for increasing the frequency has, so far, been received by Government.

(c) No applications have so far been received for extending the present Delhi-Madras service to other places in Southern India, but a number of applications have been received by the Air Transport Licensing Board for the operation of air transport services in or across South India. A statement giving a list of the applications is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Name of Company	Route
1. Air India Limited	Madras-Bangalore-Cochin-Trivandrum.
2. Deccan Airways Limited	Hyderabad-Bangalore
3. Mistr Airways Limited	Calcutta-Cuttack-Vizagapatam-Bezwada-Madras.
4. Airways (India) Ltd	Do
5. Dalma Jain Airways Limited	Calcutta-Cuttack-Vizagapatam-Madras-Colombo.
6. Bharat Airways Ltd	Calcutta-Cuttack-Vizagapatam-Madras-Colombo.
7. Jupiter Airways Ltd	Calcutta-Cuttack-Vizagapatam-Bezwada-Madras-Trichunopoly-Colombo
8. Do.	Madras-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Cochin-Trivandrum
9. Do	Bombay-Poona-Belgaum-Bangalore Coimbatore-Cochin-Trivandrum
10. Madras Pre-idency Airways Limited	Madras-Vellore-Anantapur-Bellary-Hyderabad.
11. Do.	Madras-Bezwada-Coconada-Vizagapatam
12. Do	Madras-Trichunopoly-Madras-Trivandrum
13. Do	Madras-Salem Coimbatore-Cochin-Mangalore-Poona
14. Do	Madras-Pudukkottai-Devakkottai-Colombo.
15. Ambica Air Line Ltd	Bombay-Bangalore-Madras-Coimbatore
16. Air Service of India Limited	Bombay-Poona-Belgaum-Bangalore
17. Varadaja Airways Ltd	Madras-Bangalore-Mysore-Poona Bombay-Kanchi
18. Jupiter Airways Ltd.	Bombay-Poona-Belgaum-Bangalore-Madras.
19. Varadaja Airways Ltd	Madras-Bellary-Sholapur-Bombay
20. Do	Madras-Coimbatore-Ootacamund-Belgaum-Bangalore
21. Air India Limited	Karachi-Bombay-Madras-Colombo
	(A provisional licence has been granted for this service).

Of the above applications, the frequency proposed for No. 15 is thrice weekly and that for No. 16 is from 2 to 7 services a week.

The frequency proposed for the rest is once daily.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that there is a first class aerodrome near Bezwada, will Government consider the advisability of diverting the air route in such a way that these lines can be taken *via* Bezwada, so that there may be more traffic?

Sir Harold Shobert: I see from the statement which I am going to lay on the table of the House that there are various applications for lines between Bezwada and Madras which would connect up with the present service and I hope that the Honourable Member would feel that that was adequate without making the present line less direct than it is now

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will that connect Bezwada with Hyderabad?

Sir Harold Shobert: Definitely

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether the deficiency of passengers at present is not due to the fact that the full load is not allowed to get in at Madras and that a percentage of accommodation is reserved for passengers at Hyderabad, Nagpur and Gwalior?

Sir Harold Shobert: I am afraid I must have notice of that question but it is probably the case. There may be bookings from these other places and in a matter like that you cannot follow the policy of first come first served otherwise intermediate stations would never get served at all

SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS IN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

538. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Transport Member please state

(a) how many officers who have already reached the age of 55 are still being continued in service in the departments under his control,

(b) how many pensioners were re-employed during the war and are still being continued, how many of these superannuated men were specialists and technical men, and

(c) when will the services of these men be dispensed with?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) 39

(b) 29, of whom 28 are technical officers or specialists

(c) The services of 26 officers are likely to be dispensed with by 31st December 1946, eight more officers by the 31st March 1947 and the remaining five on the expiry of the present terms of appointment or as soon thereafter as they can be suitably replaced

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are there any such superannuated persons in the Railway Board?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: These figures relate both to the Railway and Transport Departments

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if there are any superannuated men in the Railway Board as members?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have already answered the question. These figures include both the Railway and Transport Departments. To the best of my information there is no superannuated gentleman on the Railway Board

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There are seven or eight General Managers. How many of these gentlemen are superannuated?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I really ought to have notice of that question. But I can assure my Honourable friend that some of them are proceeding on leave preparatory to retirement and nobody is standing in their way

SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS IN COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

539. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) how many officers who have already reached the age of 55 are still being continued in service in the departments under his control,

(b) how many pensioners were re-employed during the war and are still being continued; how many of these superannuated men were specialists or technical men; and

(c) when will the services of these men be dispensed with?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) Six

(b) (i) Three

(ii) All of them are technical men

(c) The services of these men will be dispensed with during the course of the next ten months on the expiry of the period of extension or re-employment sanctioned in each case

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if Government have trained other people to take their place?

Sir Harold Shobert: Certainly, Sir

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they Indians?

Sir Harold Shobert: Certainly Sir

MUSLIM TEMPORARY ENGINEERS ON N W RAILWAY

†540. ***Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that four temporary engineers serving on the North Western Railway were selected locally during 1942 and that none of them is a Muslim,

(b) whether it is a fact that they have been recommended to be confirmed along with Indian Railway Service Engineers Officers recruited during war even though they appeared in Federal Public Service Commission and failed and that while recruiting them it was essentially laid down that they were being employed only for the duration of war, and

(c) if it is so, will the General Manager be asked to rectify the mistake and give proper representation to Muslims in all Gazetted and non-gazetted services?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The actual facts in connection with the recruitment of temporary Engineers on the North Western Railway in 1942 are as follows. Nine candidates were considered suitable by Selection Board, consisting of the Chief Engineer, two Deputy Chief Engineers and the Deputy General Manager (Personnel), for six posts of temporary Engineers. Of these the first five in order of merit, including one Muslim, were selected and another Muslim candidate whose rank was the seventh was nominated to conform to communal requirements, two of the six vacancies having been reserved for Muslims. As both the Muslim candidates subsequently failed to pass the medical examination, they could not be appointed and the remaining Muslim candidate who stood 8th in the list of nine approved candidates was appointed. This candidate, however, failed to pass the examination held at the Walton Training School at the end of 3 months training given to these recruits and his services were, therefore, terminated in accordance with the terms of the Agreement entered by him. The correct position, therefore, is that five candidates were initially recruited as temporary Engineers on the North Western Railway in 1942, including one Muslim, and that the services of the latter had to be terminated as he failed to pass the prescribed examination.

(b) 70 per cent of permanent vacancies occurring since 1st June 1942, have been reserved for war-service personnel after the war, steps are now being taken

to fill the remaining 30 per cent, not reserved for war-service candidates, through the Federal Public Service Commission. The latter have issued an advertisement calling for applications for filling these vacancies and, in accordance with Government's policy, any Government servant employed temporarily during the war (whether originally recruited departmentally or through the Federal Public Service Commission) is eligible to compete for a permanent vacancy in any grade or corresponding grade to which direct recruitment is made, provided he satisfies the normal educational qualifications and is within the age limits prescribed for such cases. The applications of the four temporary Engineers in question received in response to the Commission's advertisement have been forwarded along with other similar applications for consideration by the Commission. Government have no information regarding their position in a previous examination held by the Commission but they have no doubt that the Commission will deal with all applications on their merits.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(c) Communal quotas are observed in direct recruitment to gazetted and non-gazetted posts on Railways, and in filling the vacancies referred to, communal quotas are required to be observed

SINKING OF WELLS AND PROCURATION OF FOODGRAINS BY SUBSIDIES

541. *Sri E. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the total amount spent on the accelerated programme of sinking wells up to the 30th September, 1946, province-wise,

(b) the total quantity of foodgrains procured by granting subsidies for the above programme, and

(c) if Government have received representations that the amount of subsidy in many cases was much below 50 per cent of the total cost and in some cases it was below 20 per cent?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table showing the amounts of the subsidies given for the construction of wells and the quantity of foodgrains expected therefrom. No figures are available of the quantities procured

(c) No such representations have been received by the Central Government. The rate of subsidy given to cultivators for the sinking of wells is determined by the Provincial Governments in the light of local conditions. The Central Government are however prepared to bear half the cost of the subsidy given by Provincial Governments to cultivators provided that the total subsidy so given for well construction does not exceed 50 per cent of the cost of the wells.

*since the inauguration of growth
of Foodgrains expected the*

campaign upto 30th September 1946 of

Province	Subsidy by Central Government	Subsidy by the Provincial Government	Quantity of Foodgrains Expected
	R.	R.	
1 Ajmer-Merwara	4,160		1,680 mds
2 Assam			
3 Baluchistan	3,650		
4 Bengal			
5 Bihar	19,664	19,664	5,353 mds
6 Bombay	3,01,285	5,53,376	6,546 tons
7. C P & Berar	5,01,067	5,01,067	60,059 mds
8 Coorg	1,000	...	Information not available
9. Delhi	1,62,450	...	Do.
10 Madras	1,19,53,743	1,19,75,935	Do.
11 N. W. F. P.	64,000	32,000	Do.
12 Orissa	1,14,883	71,230	165 75 tons
13 Punjab	2,14,415	2,14,416	2,01,400 mds
14. Sind	Information not received.		
15. U. P.	60,800	91,200	18,000 mds

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if this programme to accelerate the sinking of wells includes the sinking of tube-wells also?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, would the Honourable Member kindly read out from the statement how many such tube-wells have been sunk in Madras and how many applications have been received?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I could not give all that information. So far as I am aware 30,000 wells have been sunk in Madras.

Sri E. Venkatasubba Reddiar: How many more rigs are going to be imported?

Mr. B. R. Sen: 30

Sri E. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Do Government propose to allot any of the 30 imported mechanical rigs to Madras?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have not yet decided on that.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: What is the capacity of these wells? How much land can be irrigated?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am sorry I have not got that information.

FIXATION OF SUGARCANE PRICE

542. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) the basis on which the sugar-cane price is fixed and the percentage which is allotted to the cane grower, and

(b) the price of sugar-cane fixed for the season 1946-47 for the Madras Presidency?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Prices of sugarcane are fixed by the Provincial Governments on the basis of sugar prices which are fixed by the Government of India in consultation with Provincial Governments and representatives of the industry. Cane prices are fixed for delivery at the mill gate and the grower gets the entire price minus transport expenses that he may have to incur.

(b) Cane prices of Madras Presidency for the current year vary from Rs. 29 to Rs. 35 per ton at factory gate except in the case of Podanur factory which is a very small and uneconomic unit where price has been fixed at Rs. 26 per ton.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it obligatory for the millowners to purchase any sugarcane that is brought to the mill gate?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Are Government aware that the millowners play a trick upon the grower by making them come with the sugarcane to the mill gate and when they do not agree to a lower rate offered by the millowner, the grower is placed at the mercy of the millowner?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have no such information. If the Honourable Member will be pleased to supply me with specific instances I shall go into them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How are these prices fixed in Madras, U. P. and Bihar?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The price is about the same. In U. P. and Bihar the price is Rs. 1-4-0 per maund and the price in Madras comes to about the same.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether Government fixes the share of the wage-earners in the sugarcane industry when fixing the share of the grower?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Not that I am aware of.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether Government will consider the necessity of safeguarding the interests of the wage-earners in the sugarcane industry and see that their share also is fixed?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall have the suggestion examined.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that the sugarcane growers in a particular locality nearest to a factory are obliged to sell all their sugarcane to the factory and on that account the prices are low and unremunerative for them?

Mr. B. R. Sen: In some cases that is so, but the provincial governments fix the price which the growers must get, and the growers do get that price, at least since the last two years.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that gur is selling at a higher price in Madras than Sugar, and that sugarcane prices are very low—much lower than in other places where gur is allowed to be manufactured?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That has happened in some areas,—Yes

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy of Government to discourage the production of gur?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No, it is not the policy to discourage production of gur, but it is the policy of Government to keep the sugar factories going, and to the extent that it is necessary to put restrictions on gur production for keeping these sugar mills going, they take necessary measures.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that gur is much more nutritive than sugar and the production of gur also is more remunerative to the grower than the supply of sugarcane to the sugar manufacturer?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question perhaps does not arise out of this.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government consider the question of raising the price of sugarcane and also sugar, so that gur may be available to cultivators at a cheaper rate and does the Government know that at present in certain places the price of gur is more than that of sugar?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member should be aware that only recently the price of sugarcane has been increased in the United Provinces and Bihar from 14s 6p to Rs 1-4-0 per maund and the price of sugar has been increased from Rs 16-10-0 to Rs 20-14-0 per maund.

NUMBER OF TRACTORS AND PLOUGHS RECEIVED BY GOVERNMENT

543. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddhar: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the number of tractors with ploughs attached that has been received by Government since May 1946, and how they have been distributed, and

(b) the steps that have been taken to manufacture such ploughs, and if any steps have been taken, the number of ploughs that are being manufactured and the probable time by which they will be available?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) As orders for tractors and Ploughs are placed with different manufacturing concerns, they are received in separate consignments and are attached together subsequently before use in India. Since May 1946, 20 Tractors have been received by Government from the U S A. Eight of these tractors have been sent to the U P, three to Rampur, five to Hyderabad and four to Baroda. No Ploughs were received by Government from abroad during this period. In addition Government have also acquired from the American Army Surpluses in India about 315 Used Tractors and eight Ploughs out of which twelve tractors have been despatched to Bombay, 41 Tractors and three Ploughs to Madras and 15 Tractors and three Ploughs to Mysore. The remaining machines have to be repaired before they can be put to effective use.

(b) A contract for the manufacture in India of 1250 tractor—drawn agricultural implements including 250 Mould Board Ploughs, 250 Disc Ploughs and 250 One-way Disc Tillers or wheat land Ploughs has been entered into by Government with an Indian firm. In accordance with the terms of the contract the delivery of these implements is spread over the period February 1947 to April 1948.

Seth Govind Das: May I know why no tractors have been supplied to the Central Provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I think the demand of the other provinces was considered more immediate

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: What is the use of these tractors, without ploughs?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It is unfortunate that we have not got implements at the same time as we got these tractors, but these tractors are in some areas being used for earth work.

Seth Govind Das: Has the Honourable Member received any demand from the Central Provinces about tractors?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I must ask for notice

Khan Abdul Gham Khan: In view of the fact that we cannot get enough tractors but that there are a number of Bren gun carriers available which can be used to do the work of these tractors, will Government offer a few of these carriers to provincial governments to do this kind of work?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall have to consider that matter

BAN ON EXPORT OF GROUNDNUT OIL

544. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state the necessity for continuing the ban on the export of groundnut oil from the Madras Province?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There is no absolute ban on the export of groundnut oil from the Madras Province. Madras Government regulate the export of groundnut oil from that province in accordance with an all-India Basic Plan.

EXPANSION OF SUGAR INDUSTRY IN MADRAS

545. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state whether Government propose to expand the sugar industry in the Madras Presidency? And if so, what is the number of new factories that is proposed to be allotted to the Province?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Province of Madras has been allocated nine new units of a daily crushing capacity ranging between 400 and 650 tons in the post war expansion of the sugar industry. This will increase the crushing capacity in Madras by about 4,700 tons per day.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Who gives to individual applicants? Is it the Central Government or the Provincial Government?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The selection was made by the Madras Government.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have all of them been distributed?

Mr. B. R. Sen: All the nine have been distributed.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is care taken to see that this does not fall into the hands of exploiters who start agencies and promise enormous dividends and thus get enormous funds, and whenever there is an application by co-operative societies they are always asked whether these applications will have priority?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am sure that all these considerations have been taken into account by the Madras Government in making the selection.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Central Government given any general directions in the matter?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No, it is in the discretion of the Provincial Government.

PERMANENT OFFICERS IN BRANCHES OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

†546. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(a) the total number of permanent officers in the class I and II separately in each of the following branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department—(i) Telegraph Engineering Branch, (u) Telegraph Traffic Branch, and (uu) Postal Branch,

(b) the number of officers of class I and II in the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate,

(c) the total number of Officers in the Office of Post Master-General, Punjab and North West Frontier Province at Lahore,

(d) the number of Sikhs with their names and designation in each of the above groups, and

(e) whether Government propose to make up this deficiency at least partly, by taking Sikh candidates in the immediate future either from amongst the war candidates or from the open market?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House

(e) There is no special reservation fixed for Sikhs. The question, therefore, does not arise

Statement	
(a) (i) Class I	55
Class II	140
(ii) Class I	3
Class II	47
(iii) Class I	39
Class II	190
(b) Class I	49
Class II	15
(c)	13

(d) Group (a) includes five Sixth officers, viz —

(1) Mr Lochan Singh, Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, officiating as Director of Telegraphs, Central Circle

(2) Mr Harbans Singh, Superintendent of Post offices, officiating as Deputy Postmaster General, Lahore

(3) Mr Ajit Singh, Superintendent of Post Offices

(4) Mr Daljit Singh, Superintendent of Post Offices

(5) Mr Gurcharan Singh Bhatia, Superintendent of Post Offices, officiating as Assistant Postmaster General, Lahore

Group (b) does not include any Sikh officer

Group (c) includes two Sikh officers viz —

(1) Mr Harbans Singh, Superintendent of Post offices officiating as Deputy Postmaster General Lahore

(2) Mr Gurcharan Singh Bhatia, Superintendent of Post offices, officiating as Assistant Postmaster General, Lahore

CANDIDATES OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT SENT OVERSEAS FOR SPECIALIZED TRAINING

†547. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Secretary of the Communication Department please state

(a) how many candidates of the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been sent this year for specialization overseas, and for what period,

(b) how many candidates referred to in part (a) above were selected from class II and Class III officials of the Telegraph Engineering, who are responsible for the technical maintenance of the Tele-communication equipment, and

(c) whether it is a fact that two class III officials were sent for training abroad about 6 years ago and that these two officials did very well in their work, if so, why is the choice now restricted to class I officials, almost ignoring other classes of officials?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) Five officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department were recently sent to England for a special and intensive course of training in the planning of underground telephone cable networks. This course lasted three months

(b) Three of the officers mentioned are in the Telegraph Engineering Service Class I and two are Grade I Telephone Inspectors of the late Bengal Telephone Corporation, which did not distinguish between Class I and Class II officers

(c) Yes Two Engineering Supervisors were sent abroad for specialised training in 1939 and certainly profited by that training Government do not propose to restrict selections for courses of training abroad to Class I officers, but it must be recognised that officers in Class I will be able to disseminate knowledge which they acquire far more widely than could be done by the comparatively few officials in lower grades who could be sent abroad for special training

MANUFACTURE OF TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH MACHINERY

†548. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) how many candidates have been sent abroad to learn manufacture of telephone and telegraph machinery or parts thereof,

(b) how many foreign experts have been called in India to teach or guide Indian Engineers to manufacture telegraph and telephone machines or parts thereof, and

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) above are in the negative, whether Government propose to do something in the matter?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) None

(b) None

(c) The Indian Posts and Telegraphs factories for manufacturing Telegraph and Telephone equipment are already seriously understaffed. It is not at present possible to spare any officer from these factories for specialized training abroad. Efforts are however being made to obtain Indian engineers with experience of Telegraph and Telephone equipment factories to fill the posts of Production Engineers and similar posts in the Posts and Telegraphs factories. Furthermore, the complete reorganisation of the factories, so as to equip them for meeting the post-war requirements of the Department, is under close investigation

IMPORTATION OF ENGINEERS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

†549. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) whether it is a fact that some Engineers have been imported recently in India to do Posts and Telegraphs work, if so, (i) how many they are, (ii) their grades of pay and conditions of service and terms of employment, and (iii) what special work will they do in India,

(b) whether the same work could not be done by the Indian Engineers, and

(c) whether Government propose to import more foreign Engineers or Experts of the same qualifications, if so, what are its details?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) Yes

(i) Five

(ii) One officer has been recruited on a consolidated pay of Rs. 1,500 per month on a contract for three years terminable on six months notice on either side. He has been granted a free first class passage to India and return passage to the United Kingdom on the conclusion of the contract. Four officers have been recruited on pay ranging from Rs. 550 to Rs. 600 per month plus war

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

allowance and free quarters or allowance in lieu thereof on contracts for one year terminable on one month's notice on either side. They have been granted free passage to India and return passages to the United Kingdom on conclusion of the contracts.

(m) They are employed on long distance telephone maintenance and installation work.

(b) Telegraph Engineers of Indian nationality possessing the requisite qualifications and experience are not available in sufficient numbers to maintain efficiently the existing telephone and telegraph equipment in India, and to carry through the plans for post-war development. This position is being remedied as quickly as possible by sending Indian officers for specialised technical training abroad. Information upon this subject has already been given to the Honourable Member in reply to his question No. 25.

(c) The Telegraph and Telephone equipment operated by the Indian Post and Telegraphs Department has nearly doubled in value during the war. A large part of the additional equipment consists of complicated and delicate apparatus which requires a high degree of technical skill and experience for its efficient maintenance. As stated in the reply to part (b) of this question, the policy of the Department is to send Indian officers abroad to receive the special training required as fast as they can. In the meantime it may be necessary to borrow the services of foreign engineers on contracts of varying length until there are enough qualified Indian engineers to take their place. The policy of the Government of India is only to recruit experts from abroad in exceptional circumstances.

SUPPLY OF NEWSPRINT TO THE *RIYASATI DUNNIYA*

†550. ***Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware that an Illustrated Weekly known as *Riyasati Dunniya* used to be published from Delhi, which represented the news of State Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that the paper has ceased publication due to refusal by Government to give newsprint quota?

(c) Is it a fact that the General Secretary of the All-India Muslim League and some Delhi papers had recommended to Government to give adequate quota and that Government promised to do the needful?

(d) Do Government propose to look into the matter and redress this grievance?

Mr. M. P. Pal: (a) Yes, but Government have seen only one issue of this Weekly and do not know if it was in regular publication.

(b) No. The paper is stated to have started publication in August 1942 and to have ceased during the same year on account of the death of Nawab Yar Jung Bahadur who appears to have started this weekly.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is 'Yes'. The Government promised to consider the request on merits.

(d) There has recently been a set back in the supply position of paper and the applicant has been informed that the Government are prepared to reconsider the request after December 1946, provided the paper situation improves by that time.

CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

551. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the chemical fertilizers are at present not manufactured in India and are mostly imported from Great Britain, chiefly of Indian Chemical Industries Manufacture,

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) whether it is a fact that this Indian Chemical Industries is a big concern owned by British Industrialists,

(c) whether it is a fact that huge subsidies and loans have been offered and given by the Government of India to the local Governments for arranging for subsidised distribution of these fertilizers amongst the cultivators,

(d) whether it is a fact that a big market has thus been created for these products and a vigorous propaganda for these is being carried on at the cost of Government under the camouflage of the 'grow more food campaign', thus giving a huge bounty to the Company concerned under the garb of subsidy to tenants, and

(e) whether Government propose to ban all subsidy to fertilizers till these are manufactured in India and introduce compost schemes throughout the country reaching every village?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Out of some 200,000 tons of chemical fertilisers, which are expected to be used in 1946-47, some 180,000 tons will be imported, 40,000 tons from Canada and Belgium and the rest from the U.K. from Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd

(b) Yes

(c) Grants and loans are given to Provincial Governments for the subsidised distribution not only of chemical fertilisers but also of other manures such as composts, oilcakes and bonemeal and also for green manuring. The total grant sanctioned for this purpose is Rs 166 lakhs of which ammonium sulphate accounts for Rs 35 lakhs. The subsidies are given in order to increase food production.

(d) There is no element of camouflage and no bounty to any Company. India needs the fertilisers to increase food production and they are purchased at the world market rates. There is an acute demand for these fertilisers from all over the world and we have to fight hard to obtain our quota, what we get is considerably less than what we need. The benefit from the subsidies given is derived by the individual cultivators using the fertilisers as well as by the country as a whole through increased food production.

(e) Government have already taken steps to introduce compost schemes throughout the country but cannot accept the suggestion of banning subsidies for fertilisers, because such a course would result in less production of food in India.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that about two crores of rupees are spent annually by the Government for importing this material and if more subsidies are given locally and if more efforts are made, from this amount which is spent in importing, more material can be prepared in this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member may be aware that Government have already taken steps to produce ammonium sulphate in this country. The local production will increase to about 4,40,000 tons by 1951-52. The policy of the Government is to reduce their imports of fertilisers with the increase of their local production.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that the Government of India fertiliser factory at Sindri, Bihar, which was to begin working in 1946 has not yet begun to work on account of certain things and it is not expected that it will work very soon?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is correct, but so far as I am aware, it will start production from about 1948.

Seth Govind Das: Was it to begin work in 1946 and may I know the reason why two years more delay has been made?

Mr. B. R. Sen: If the Honourable Member wants to have the reasons in detail, I must ask for notice

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inquire whether he can reassure the House, that whatever might have been the position with regard to the current year, in future, until the Sindhri factory produces, any importations of fertilisers on Government account will not be from one concern or from one country but will be taken from wherever they could be had and at the cheapest price?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I think that is the policy of the Government of India, apart from ammonium sulphate which we are getting from the Imperial Chemical Industries, we get ammonium phosphates from Canada, super-phosphates from the United States of America and Belgium, and ammonium nitrate from Canada. We do not confine ourselves to the United Kingdom only.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government will adhere to the policy of the cheapest price regardless of the country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That will be one of the primary considerations.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is not a fact that the fertilisers imported from Great Britain are cheaper than the fertilisers imported from Canada and from Belgium?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I believe that is correct.

LOSS OF CATTLE DUE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES

552. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state

(a) the amount of loss in cattle wealth in the country since the outbreak of the war and its cost in money equivalent in each year and for each Province, separately, particularly the losses due to rinderpest and other seasonal and infectious diseases, mentioning the fatality figures for each disease, separately,

(b) whether Government are aware that diseases like rinderpest are mostly due to migration of cattle and that they can be successfully brought under control by establishing proper quarantines under strict supervision,

(c) whether Government are aware that the seasonal diseases can also be brought under control by locating the centres where the diseases break out and by arranging adequate medical help at proper time at such places, and

(d) whether Government propose to take early steps in consultation and co-ordination with Provinces on all-India basis for the protection of the already depleted cattle wealth of the country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Veterinary returns from the Provinces have not been published regularly since 1941. From such reports as are available a statement showing the average annual losses incurred on account of the principal contagious diseases has been prepared and is laid on the table of the House. It is recognised that all the deaths occurring are not reported and that the actual loss is much greater than estimated from the reported figures.

(b) Government recognise that one of the means of controlling the spread of diseases like rinderpest is through the establishment of effective quarantine stations for migrating cattle.

(c) Yes

(d) The subject is under the consideration of Government. A scheme for concentrating inoculation in areas in Bengal which are prone to ravages by imported rinderpest has been sanctioned this year at a cost of Rs 58,500 from the Central Revenue.

Total average annual losses from the principal contagious veterinary diseases, Province-wise, in India excluding States, computed from such data as are available with the Central Government.

(Cattle, excluding buffaloes)

Province	Number of deaths due to :		Foot and mouth	Black-quarter	Anthrax	Surra
	Rinder-pest	Haemorrhagic Septicæmia				
1. Madras	25,721	8,218	147	5,913	1,441	680
2. Bombay	2,639	1,682	146	4,534	489	242
3. Bengal	17,012	2,464	494	158	1,089	5
4. U. P.	6,270	2,909	565	439	254	18
5. C. P. & Berar	6,454	3,801	462	984	576	106
6. Punjab	3,612	5,966	191	506	2	.
7. Bihar	1,534	1,974	36	458	365	23
8. Orissa	3,012	597	142	43	29	17
9. Sind	342	195	94	6	7	3
10. Assam	21,198	1,462	504	90	1,581	2
11. N. W. F. P.	534	1,040	7,360	46		4
12. Ajmer-Merwara	9				19	...
Total for all India	88,338	30,308	10,141	13,177	5,832	1,100
Estimated loss by deaths in Rupees at Rs. 100 a head	88,33,800	30,30,800	10,14,100	13,17,700	5,83,200	1,10,000

(Buffaloes)

Province	Number of deaths due to :		Foot and mouth	Black-quarter	Anthrax	Surra
	Rinder-pest	Haemorrhagic Septicæmia				
1. Madras	9,016	2,364	164	461	594	107
2. Bombay	3,459	3,627	52	522	160	46
3. Bengal	1,378	142	14	2	33	9
4. U. P.	6,284	4,255	184	104	61	3
5. C. P. & Berar	2,538	1,073	31	29	68	18
6. Punjab	1,682	3,816	46	4	...	...

Province	Number of deaths due to		Foot and mouth	Black-quarter	Anthrax	Surra
	Rinderpest	Haemorrhagic Septicæmia				
7 Bihar	1,335	1,629	3	86	90	10
8. Orissa	883	56	37			2
9. Sind	328	497	81	6	8	3
10 Assam	2,266	220	42	76	177	
11. N. W. F. P.	259	640	1,123	43		3
12. Ajmer-Merwara	5	..	..	3		
Total for all India	29,432	18,318	1,787	1,356	1,186	200
Estimated loss by death in rupees at Rs. 100 a head	29,43,300	18,31,800	1,78,700	1,33,600	1,18,600	20,000

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that recently these diseases among cattle are increasing particularly in the Central Provinces and no effective steps are being taken by the Government to see that these diseases do not spread?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is a fact so far as the Central Provinces are concerned. The Central Provinces have established quarantine stations in the northern part of their area and I believe they are doing their best to cope with the spread of the disease.

Mr. R. O. Morris: Is it a fact that the number of veterinary officers in the rural areas in the Madras Presidency is inadequate to deal with outbreaks of rinderpest and other diseases?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That must be correct.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUSES, OBSOLETE STORES AND SALVAGE BY THE INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

553. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state

(a) the amount for which the surpluses, obsolete stores and salvage have been disposed of out of the stocks purchased for war purposes by his Department since the *de facto* termination of the hostilities, and

(b) the cost for which these were purchased and the expenses incurred in storing, maintaining and disposing of the same?

Mr. M. P. Pal: (a) During the period 1st September 1945 (V J Day) to 30th September 1946 sales of surplus stores (including obsolete stores) by the Directorate General of Disposals and its Agencies and Branches totalled Rs. 25.2 crores. During the same period recoveries from sales of salvage amounted to Rs. 10.5 crores.

(b) The book-value of the above surpluses was Rs. 86.5 crores. The book value of salvage disposed of is not available.

The expenditure on the Disposals Organisation from 1st September 1945 to 30th September 1946 was roughly Rs. 80 lakhs.

The Disposals Organization is not responsible for storage and maintenance of surpluses pending disposal. Separate figures of storage and maintenance costs for such stores are not available and the results achieved will not be commensurate with the additional work involved in computing them.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that there are rumours of corruption in the Disposal Department and may I know whether Government will take steps to make inquiries into the matter?

Mr. M. P. Pal: There is corruption in every department of Government. If specific instances are brought to the notice of Government, they would be investigated.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it a fact that Government is making cent per cent profit in the disposal of these goods and may I ask the Honourable Member whether this policy is always going to continue?

Mr. M. P. Pal: It is not the policy to sell any article at the best price. It is the policy to sell it in consonance with the Government's general anti-inflationary policy. There might be a profit but it is not made deliberately.

DIFFERENCE IN LOCAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

554. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state

(a) whether it is a fact that different local weights and measures are in use in different parts of the country,

(b) whether it is a fact that this variety is a great handicap in inter-provincial and even inter-district trade,

(c) whether the Government of India have decided to accept the decimal system of coinage, and

(d) whether Government propose to take early steps to introduce a uniform system of weights and measures for use throughout the country, and adopt the metric system for this purpose?

Mr. M. P. Pal: (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) Government have already introduced a Bill to establish a decimal system of coinage.

(d) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Standards of Weight Act passed by the Legislature in 1939 and the rules made thereunder copies of which are available in the Library. Both the Act and the rules were brought into force with effect from the 1st July 1942. The enforcement of the use of weights based on the Standards of Weight Act, 1939 and standardization of measures are matters for the Provincial Governments. Some of the Provincial Governments have already legislated on the subject and Provincial Governments who have not yet passed any legislation on the subject have been requested to do so. Government are also in correspondence with Chief Commissioners and it is hoped that weights and measures will be standardised in the Centrally administered areas shortly.

As regards the introduction of the metric system, Government have invited the views of the Provincial Governments, the commercial community and various other organisations. The question will be further examined on receipt of all replies.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the standardisation of weights and measures has been hanging fire for a number of years and the Central Government has been pleading inability to do anything because it is a provincial matter, will Government consider the advisability of calling a conference of the representatives of these Provincial Governments so that they may be able to persuade them to introduce necessary legislation to standardise these things?

Mr. M. P. Pal: If the Government of India do not receive replies which they consider satisfactory, that suggestion will certainly be considered.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO ANGLO-INDIANS AND EX-SERVICE MEN IN RAILWAY SERVICES

555. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) whether Government are aware that a policy of undue preference to ex-service men and Anglo-Indians and of exclusion of person who participated even indirectly or were suspected to be sympathetic to the Indian National Resistance Movement of 1942 is being pursued for employment in railway services,

(b) whether it is a fact that a circular was issued some time in 1942 or at any time thereafter excluding persons who were dismissed from the Railway services on account of alleged participation in or sympathy with the 1942 Movement referred to in part (a) above and banning their re-employment,

(c) whether the said circular is still in force.

(d) if so, whether Government propose to rescind the said circular and re-instate the persons affected by it?

(e) [Not put]

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) 70 per cent of the permanent vacancies which occurred from the 1st June, 1942, to 31st December, 1945, have been reserved for ex-service men. Apart from this, no special preference is given to them. As regards Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans, Government decided in 1934 that to safeguard their interests, 8 1/3 per cent of the vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment should be reserved for them. No special instructions were issued to Railways in regard to the exclusion of the persons referred to by the Honourable Member. Very early in 1942 prior to the 1942 movement, instructions were issued requiring the verification by the Police of the character and antecedents of persons selected for temporary appointment to posts connected with war work under Government and those whose character and antecedents were reported to be unsatisfactory were excluded from service. In 1944 these instructions were further amplified to provide for action being taken on receipt of adverse Police reports against those who might have been inadvertently appointed without proper verification or who might have subsequently become corrupted.

(b) No circular, other than that containing the instruction referred to in the reply to part (a) above, was issued. In accordance with rule 151 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I a copy of which is in the library of the House a person who has been dismissed from Railway service for any reason is not eligible for re-employment without the specific sanction of higher authority. It is likely that the cases referred to in this part of the question were dealt with in terms of the rule mentioned.

(c) and (d) Government have decided to review cases of persons who have been disqualified during the last five years on adverse police reports or on political grounds (including cases of Government servants who have been dismissed for such reasons during that period). They have also decided to review other cases on individual representation.

AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES BETWEEN DELHI AND AHMEDABAD

556. *Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that there is one air-conditioned coach running between Delhi and Ahmedabad, which requires an extra bogey for housing the machinery?

(b) Are Government aware that for this provision of ten air-conditioned seats, the Railway deprives about 180 third class passengers of travel facilities?

(c) Are Government aware that this coach is an old one involving heavy expenditure to Government and great inconvenience to third class passengers?

(d) Do Government propose to inquire into the matter and put a stop to this kind of uneconomical travel facilities?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes, one bogie air-conditioned coach and one bogie generator car run on 1 Up and 2 Down Mails between Ahmedabad and Delhi four days a week

(b) No The air-conditioned unit is in addition to the normal composition of the train, and third class accommodation has not been curtailed to make room for it

(c) The air-conditioned coach is a converted military ward car and cost less than a new coach would have done The question of heavy expenditure to Government does not, therefore, arise, nor is there any question of inconvenience to third class passengers

(d) Government do not admit that the air-conditioned travel facilities provided are uneconomical and do not, therefore, propose to order their discontinuance

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Government not be able to attach two third class coaches in place of these air-conditioned coaches?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That suggestion is very interesting, it will be considered

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that air travel is becoming very popular, will the Honourable Member try to avoid attaching these air-conditioned coaches to any trains?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: In fact, I am thinking of air-conditioning all the coaches, if possible

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that air-conditioned coaches are very necessary especially in the summer?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is a matter of opinion

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

THROUGH BOGY BETWEEN PATNA AND DEHRA DUN.

557. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the passengers from Patna travelling to Dehra Dun feel much inconvenience because lack of through boggy for the passengers between these two stations, and

(b) whether Government propose to introduce the running of a boggy for 1st and 2nd class passengers between these two Stations in any convenient train from both sides?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Government are aware that there is no Through-Service coach from Patna to Dehra Dun and *vice versa*, and that passengers have to change trains at Moghalsara. There is, however, a considerable margin of time between the arrival of one train at Moghalsara and the departure of the connecting train, and the changes occur during daylight at convenient hours Government do not consider that the absence of a Through carriage involves any great inconvenience to passengers

(b) The Railway Administration report that the question of introducing a Through-Service carriage between Patna and Dehra Dun during the summer months will be considered when the time-table to come into force from April 1947 is taken in hand

EXPORT OF GHEE FROM INDIA.

558. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state

(a) the quantity of Ghee exported from India during the preceding three years;

(b) the firms (including the War Department) who exported it together with the quantity thus exported by each firm;

(c) the quantity destroyed by the War Department as unconsumable during that period;

(d) the steps taken to make it available for the consumption of the civilian population; and

(e) the rate per seer at which it is purchased by the War Department together with the names of the firms from whom it is purchased for export?

Mr. B. E. Sen: (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) *Nil*

(d) Does not arise

(e) A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement with reference to parts (a) and (b)

Year	Quantity of Ghee exported	By whom exported
	Tons.	
1943	62 3	Exported as ship stores for the use of Indian crews abroad.
1944	18 7	Ditto.
1945	47 9	Ditto.
1946 (upto the end of October)	33.16	Defence Department.

NOTE—Figures of exports of Ghee during the years 1943 to 1945 by the Defence Department are not readily available

Statement referred to in the reply to part (e)

The following prices are for deliveries at the Ghee Heating Centres. All purchases of Ghee were made by the Food Department on behalf of the War Department through Buying Agents, namely

- (i) Alopi Parabad & Sons
- (ii) Hoosenbhoy Sons & Co
- (iii) Ghee Supply Co (Bihar)
- (iv) Sind Ghee Purchasing Agency.
- (v) British India Trading Co

	1943-44 Price per seer	1944-45 Price per seer
1. Ghee Centre, Agia	3-3-2-7/8	3-0-6
2. Ghee Centre, Ambala	3-6-1-1/4	3-9-11
3. Ghee Centre, Kamptee	3-1-5-13/20	3-2-5
4. Ghee Centre, Muzaffarpur	2-11-5-23/40	No purchases were made after 31-3-44
5. Ghee Centre, Karachi	2-15-6	3-3-7
6. Ghee Centre, Bangalore	3-5-0	3-2-9/1

(Figures for 1945-46 have not been worked out so far).

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN DELHI.

559. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state

(a) the number of applications for new connections of telephones in Delhi received by the Delhi Office during the preceeding three years,

(b) the number of such applicants who are given connections, and

(c) the cost of the printing of the Directory of June, 1946 of Delhi Telephone District?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) and (b) During the preceding three years namely 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46, 1943 applications for telephones were received, 1195 of the applicants were given connections

(c) The cost of printing 10,000 copies of the June 1946 issue of the Directory was Rs 7,500

STENOGRAPHERS ON SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS.

560. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only one stenographer in the South Indian Railway, others doing the work of stenographers on that Railway being designated as Personal Clerks, if so, is the nature of the work of the latter different from that of the former,

(b) whether it is a fact that the increase in pay sanctioned by the Railway Board to stenographers of all State Railways with effect from the 1st April, 1944 was not given effect to on the South Indian Railway because the stenographers on that Railway have a different designation, viz., Personal Clerks,

(c) whether it is a fact that as a result of the various representations from the staff concerned, the General Manager of the South Indian Railway recommended that the increase referred to in part (b) above be given to such staff but the Railway Board turned down the recommendation, and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to issue instructions that "personal clerks" on the South Indian Railway doing the work of stenographers be given the increase in pay with retrospective effect from the 1st April, 1944?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) The S I Railway have two sanctioned grades of stenographers, viz., Confidential Stenographer—Rs 200—10—250 (Old and Revised), Stenographers—Old Scale Rs 180—7½—160, New Scale Rs 140 (fixed)

At present there is one post in each grade, There are Personal or Camp Clerks who were originally recruited as clerks and not as stenographers. These men are borne on the clerical cadre and in the course of their duties as departmental clerks attached to officers whom they sometimes accompany on line, they do stenography. They are eligible for transfer or promotion to other posts in their own Department, provided they are suitable and pass the necessary departmental tests. With regard to the latter part of the question, the difference is that the duties for which Personal and Camp Clerks are recruited are essentially clerical, while stenographers are essentially recruited to stenographic work

(b) Yes, but the temporary increase in pay sanctioned by the Railway Board for stenographers on Railways with effect from the 1st April 1944 was withheld from Personal and Camp Clerks not merely because of the difference in designation, but because of the reasons given in my reply to part (a) above

(c) The reply is in the affirmative

(d) In view of the reply to part (a) and (b) above, Government do not consider an alteration of the previous decision of the Railway Board is called for

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE IN NEW DELHI

561. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether Government are aware of the difficulties of members of the Legislature not merely for fixing up the house, but also for fixing a telephone in such houses?

(b) Is it a fact that applications for a telephone from members of the Legislature have been held up for a week or two at a time and that connection could not be secured till towards the end of the sessions?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to put an end to complaints of this order?

(d) Do Government propose to appoint a small Committee of the House to enquire into these matters?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) and (b). There has been some delay in the installation of telephones at the residences of a few members of the House which Government greatly regrets. As regards the difficulty about houses the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies given by the Secretary, Works, Mines and Power Department to questions No 813 and 814 on 7th November 1946

(c) Special instructions have been issued to secure prompt installation of telephones at members' residences. It must however be stated for the information of the Honourable Member that at houses not already wired for telephones or where underground telephone cables are not available, some delay is bound to occur in providing connections.

(d) In view of the replies given to parts (a) to (c), the appointment of a Committee is not considered necessary but it is understood that the matter is being laid before the House Committee of the Legislature at the instance of one Honourable Member

IMPORT AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSPRINT SINCE 1940

562. *Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies kindly place on the table of the House a detailed statement on the import and distribution of newsprint since 1940?

(b) How much newsprint was imported in this country in 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945?

(c) How much of the abovementioned newsprint was given from year to year, since 1940 to Assam, Bengal, Bihar, the United Provinces, Delhi, Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind, Bombay the Central Provinces Madras, and Orissa?

(d) How much out of the abovementioned newsprint was given to the Hindu-owned newspapers, journals, and periodicals from year to year since 1940, and similarly how much was given to the Muslim-owned newspapers journals and periodicals, and how much was given to newspapers, journals and periodicals owned by communities other than Hindus and Muslims?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) The newsprint control was instituted on 12th April 1941 in order to conserve shipping and dollar exchange. Originally it consisted of the issue of licences for imports to established importers on the basis of their imports from the North-American countries during the six months August 1940 to January 1941. Supplies from the Scandinavian countries disappeared soon after on account of the war situation. In September 1941 a quota allotment system was introduced in replacement of the previous system which had put dealers into a quasi-monopolistic position and all newspapers were granted quota allotments based on their annual consumption in 1940 and 1941. These allotments were cut down as our supplies dwindled, the cuts being 25 per cent for January-June 1942, 50 per cent for July-December 1942, and 87½ per cent for January-March 1943. The present rationing scheme was introduced in replacement of the quota allotment scheme in April 1943 since the cuts were falling harshly on small consumers after a conference with newspaper interests. At present the basic quota of every paper is 45 per cent of its consumption in July-December 1942 if its consumption in 1940-41 was 75 tons per year, 65 per cent of its consumption in July-December 1942 if its annual consumption in 1940-41 was between 10 and 75 tons, and a 100 per cent of its consumption in July-December 1942 if its consumption in 1940-41 was under ten tons per year. This was intended to graduate the cut so

that it fell more severely on the large newspapers than on the small ones. As a result of improvement in supplies, there is an addition of 25 per cent to these basic quotas at present.

(b) The quantity of newsprint imported in this country since 1940 year by year is as follows

1939-40	.	.	.	.	36,714
1940-41	.	.	.	.	30,730
1941-42	.	.	.	.	28,277
1942-43	.	.	.	.	11,237
1943-44	.	.	.	.	13,777
1944-45	.	.	.	.	22,418

(c) and (d) As will be seen from the answer to question (a), the scheme of newsprint control in force is based on consumption in normal years, and is not related to any factor of ownership, community or province. The monthly quotas are based on the consumption in July-December 1942 graduated with reference to the consumption in the previous year so that the cut falls more severely on large consumers than on small. Newspapers and periodicals circulate in more provinces than one, and it is not, therefore, possible to state how much newsprint is consumed by any particular province. It is also not possible without elaborate enquiry to decide how much is consumed by newspapers owned by any particular community. Newspapers which were not in circulation in the basic period and new newspapers started subsequently have been allowed quotas for the purpose of facilitating the expression of political points of view not adequately represented in the existing Press. The basic quotas of such papers have been fixed *ad hoc* and have sometimes been subsequently increased on the merits of each case.

SHIP BUILDING YARD AT BHATKAL IN BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

563. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware that a Bombay Firm is trying to establish a ship-building yard at Bhatkal, a port in the Western Coast of the Bombay Presidency?

(b) If so, what do Government propose to do in the matter?

(c) Do Government intend to grant the proposed firm any concession or licence to establish the industry as a private capitalist concern? If so, why?

(d) Do Government propose to consult local public opinion before taking any step in the matter?

Mr. M. P. Pal: (a) No, Sir

(b), (c), and (d) Do not arise.

NEW TEXTILE POLICY OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

564. *Mr. R. C. Morris: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Government approve of the proposed new textile policy of the Madras Government, and

(b) whether the proposed policy is in accordance with the declared industrial policy of the Central Government?

Mr. M. P. Pal: (a) and (b). The Government of India have written to the Government of Madras asking for an authoritative exposition of their reported textile policy and pending the receipt of their reply I regret I am unable to

ALLOTMENT OF NEW MOTOR CARS TO COORG

565. *Mr. B. C. Morris: Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state

(a) the number of new motor cars that have been allocated to the Province of Coorg during 1946, and

(b) whether Government are aware that non-officials in Coorg have hitherto this year been unable to obtain new cars?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Two

(b) Government have no information on this point as actual allocation of cars was made by the Provincial Motor Transport Controller, Coorg

• LACK OF BOOKING FACILITIES FOR GOODS AT GHORPURI STATION

566. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that goods booked for Stations between Hubli and Poona from Bombay are held up at the Ghorpuri Station on account of want of adequate booking, and that this has resulted in great hardships to merchants and consumers? If so, what measures are proposed to be taken to arrange for more adequate booking?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is assumed that the Honourable Member refers to the transshipment arrangements at Ghorpuri and not to booking arrangements

The railway administration report that goods booked from Bombay to station between Hubli and Poona via Ghorpuri are not detained at the latter station and that the transshipment arrangements at Ghorpuri are adequate. The question of more adequate transshipment arrangements at Ghorpuri does not therefore arise

It is true however that owing to heavy booking of foodgrains and sugar via the Ghorpuri route, which must be given priority, it has been necessary to impose restrictions on booking of other traffic for stations on the metre gauge route via Ghorpuri

The railway administration will be asked to consider whether it is necessary to increase the capacity of the metre gauge line south of Ghorpuri to meet demands of normal traffic

REPORT OF MR. PEPPERALL ON MILK PROBLEM IN INDIA

567. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have considered the Report submitted by Mr Pepperall in respect of the milk problem in India, and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to implement the recommendations made in that Report

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Honourable Member may kindly see the reply to part (c) of Assembly Question No. 880 asked by Mr Jhunjhunwala on the 12th March, 1946

REPORT OF DR. B. V. N. NAIDU TO MADRAS GOVERNMENT re PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE.

568. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) if his attention is drawn to the summary of the Report made to the Government of Madras by Dr. B. V. N. Naidu (*Hindu*, dated the 30th October, 1946) in which he said that in fixing the limits of prices of foodgrains in stabilising them, "such factors as margin of profit for the cultivator, costs of cultivation, prices of manufactured goods consumed by the farmers and the level of prices in the other Provinces and countries have to be taken into account",

(b) if Government are aware that the present level of basic controlled prices of paddy and rice in the Madras Presidency are so low as not to satisfy the conditions prescribed either by Dr Naidu or even the Gregory's Food Grains Policy Committee; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madras have actually represented to the Government of India that the present levels of prices are unremunerative?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India do not consider the present level of paddy and rice prices in Madras as too low.

(c) Yes, Sir

CROP AND CATTLE INSURANCE SCHEMES SUGGESTED BY DR. B. V. N. NAIDU TO THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

569. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) if he has seen the Press Summary of Dr. B. V. N. Naidu's report to the Government of Madras published in the *Hindu* of the 30th October, 1946, in which he suggested the inauguration of a "Crop and Cattle Insurance Scheme on the lines of the Federal Crop Insurance in the United States of America";

(b) whether the Government of India propose to appoint a small expert committee to prepare such an insurance scheme in order to protect our vast peasant masses from the vicissitudes of seasons, pests, cattle epidemics, and

(c) whether in preparing their schemes, Government would also keep in mind the responsibility of the community as a whole to make a suitable contribution to such schemes as in the case of unemployment insurance scheme in England?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The suggestions will be examined

STENOGRAPHERS IN SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

570. *Sri M. K. Jinachandran: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that Stenographers on the South Indian Railway, with a solitary exception, are all designated as Personal Clerks or Camp Clerks and that they alone of all Government Railways have been denied the general increase of pay which was sanctioned by the Railway Board in 1944 to stenographers of all the Government Railways, because of their having designations other than that of stenographers?

(b) Are not stenographers sometimes designated as Personal Assistants, Camp Clerks, etc in Government Offices?

(c) If the Personal Clerks or Camp Clerks on the South Indian Railway are actually doing stenographic work, will the Honourable Member please order that they should be given the increase of pay with retrospective effect, that is from the date on which it was given effect to on all other Government Railways?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (c). I would invite attention to the reply just given to Miss Maniben Kara's starred question No. 560

(b) Yes, but they are invariably recruited as stenographers and retain their identity as such.

RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER BANGULI NEAR MAHIMAGANJ STATION ON BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY.

571. *Manjiv Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no arrangement for pedestrians to cross the Railway bridge over the River Banguli near the Mahimaganj Station on the Bengal and Assam Railway;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to high embankment of Railway there is water logging at all places and pedestrians have no other way of crossing except over the Railway bridge,

(c) whether Government are aware that many accidents have occurred owing to this; and

(d) whether Government propose to remedy this by making a footpath along the bridge?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes, this is so

(b) The Government are not prepared to admit that water logging at all places is caused by high railway embankments. As regards this particular place, pedestrians can cross by boats

(c) No case has been reported

(d) No Railway bridges in general, and this one in particular, exist solely for the passage of railway traffic. In such cases, persons other than Railway employees making use of the bridge are trespassing and, therefore, are liable to punishment on conviction. In special cases exceptions have been made and footpaths have been added to existing structures by arrangement with, and at the cost of, the Provincial Government concerned.

MOHAMMADAN APPLICANT FOR STALL IN MAHIMAGANJ RAILWAY STATION ON BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY.

572. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether there was any Mohammadan applicant to open a Stall in the Railway Compound of the Mahimaganj Railway Station in the Bengal and Assam Railway,

(b) whether it is a fact that Mohammadan passengers sent an application for providing a Mohammadan stall,

(c) whether it is a fact that the Station Master recommended the application stating that a Mohammadan Stall is necessary;

(d) whether it is a fact that, in spite of these, the Railway authority refused permission stating that a Mohammadan stall was unnecessary, though 90 per cent of passengers belong to the Mohammadan Community, and

(e) whether Government propose to take steps to grant a licence to a Mohammadan to open a Stall there?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a), (b), (c) and (d) Information is not available at the headquarters of the Bengal Assam Railway Administration, but has been called for from the District Traffic Superintendent's Office at Katihar. A reply will be placed on the table of the House immediately the required information is received.

(e) This is a matter which the Railway Administration will consider when in possession of detailed information.

WORKING HOURS FOR CLERKS IN STORES DEPARTMENT OF B., B. & C. I RAILWAY AJMER

573. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state as to why the clerks in the Stores Department, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (Metre Gauge), Ajmer, are asked to work after the scheduled office hours and, as such, to put in ten to twelve hours hard work daily, while they are not paid a single pie extra? Do Government propose to stop this practice?

(b) Why do not Government provide for additional staff? Do Government propose to allow overtime allowance to such members of the staff, who are working beyond the scheduled hours of work, till additional staff is provided to release them from such work?

(c) Why have some of the clerks of the Stores Department, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Ajmer not been given increment for the last fifteen to twenty years, while their juniors have been promoted on one excuse or the other? How many such cases are there, and do Government propose to hold an enquiry into these cases and make arrangements for the immediate relief of the sufferers?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

UNCOVERED PLATFORMS AT BEAWAR AND INDORE

574. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that Beawar in Rajputana and Indore in Central India are two important commercial and industrial centres and are a source of considerable income to the Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the platforms at both these places are uncovered and that passengers are put to great inconvenience on that account?

(c) Is it a fact that there are no water supplying and electric lighting arrangements at these stations? Do Government propose to issue necessary instructions for providing these amenities for the travelling public at these stations at an early date? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) Yes

(b) The platforms at both these stations are uncovered. The extension of roofs to cover the platforms at Beawar is included in the post-war reconstruction plans. A re-modelling scheme for Indore station is under examination, but has yet to be finalised and the provision of funds for building roofs over the station platforms is being considered.

(c) Information with regard to existing arrangements for supplying water is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House later. If the arrangements are found inadequate they will be improved. Electric lighting is already provided at Indore station, and is to be introduced at Beawar when post war reconstruction work is undertaken at that station.

POLICY re MOTOR TRANSPORT BUSINESS AND RAIL-ROAD COORDINATION SCHEME IN AJMER-MERWARA, DELHI, ETC

575. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state if the Central Government have laid down any definite policy in respect of Motor Transport business and the Rail-Road Co-ordination Scheme in Ajmer-Merwara, Delhi, and other Centrally Administered Areas?

(b) If so, to what extent is such policy being followed by the different Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: (a) and (b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given on the 28th October, 1946 to question No 3, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, in which the principles of the Interim Government's Policy regarding motor transport and road-rail co-ordination were indicated. Those principles hold good in respect of the Chief Commissioner's Provinces and their application to such Provinces is under consideration.

SCALES OF PAY AND DEARNESS ALLOWANCE OF STAFF IN SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN AJMER-MERWARA

576. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Has the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture received through the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara any representation from Members of the staff engaged in the settlement operations in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara, in respect of meagre scales of their pay and dearness allowances? If so what action has been taken or is contemplated to be taken by Government thereon?

Mr. B. E. Sen: A letter for raising the minimum pay of the subordinate staff employed in the Settlement Department, Ajmer-Merwara, was received from the Settlement Officer through the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara. In view of the interim relief measures announced by Government in August 1946, it is proposed to await the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission.

ISTIMRARI TENURE IN AJMER-MERWARA

577. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state as to why the reports submitted by the Dela Fa Committee and by Mr Irwin in respect of the Istimrari Tenure in Ajmer-Merwara are being kept confidentially?

(b) In view of the changed political atmosphere in the country and the advent of the National Government at the Centre, do Government propose to revise the previous policy and publish these reports for the information of the public or, at any rate, lay them on the table of the House for the use of the Honourable Members of this House?

(c) How many new wells have been sunk in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara, and what amount of subsidies or loans have been granted for such purposes so far?

(d) In view of the rocky soil and the extreme poverty and indebtedness of cultivators in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara, do Government propose to consider the advisability of increasing the percentage of subsidy for sinking new wells or for deepening the existing wells?

Mr. B. E. Sen: (a) It was considered that the publication of the reports, without further action for protecting the tenants, would only strain the relations between the Istimrardars and their tenants, to the detriment of the latter and that it would be better not to publish the report till the proposed tenancy legislation could be introduced. The Dela Fargue report is less in favour of the tenants than the Irwin report.

(b) The question of placing a copy in the Library of the House is being examined.

(c) 24 new wells have been constructed and four existing wells deepened and improved. A loan of Rs 20,800 has been given for the purpose of which Rs 4,160 will be treated as a subsidy or grant, and the balance of Rs 16,640 recovered in due course.

(d) The rate of subsidy has recently been raised from 20 per cent to 50 per cent.

CORRUPTION IN CIVIL SUPPLY DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

578. *Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if Government are aware that there is very great corruption and favouritism in Civil Supply Departments of the Central and Provincial Governments?

(b) Are Government aware that Civil Supply Offices possess very large powers of patronage for giving permits and licences, and that complaint against misuse of these powers are universal?

(c) Are Government aware that among other kinds of complaints the complaint of giving permits and licences to new persons as against old merchants in trade for purposes of extortion and furthering communal interests by officials is very general?

(d) Do Government propose taking away these drastic powers in the public interest and to end the system of licences and permits as soon as possible?

(e) In case this system is not going to be ended soon, do Government propose to take steps to regulate the system by strict rules and vigilant observance so that the powers of granting licences and permits are not abused?

Mr. M. P. Pal: (a) There have been cases of corruption in the Industries and Supplies Department. Information regarding the Civil Supply Departments of the Provincial Governments should be asked of them

(b) Varying degrees of powers to grant permits and licences are exercised by officers appointed in connection with the administration of controls and complaints are bound to occur. If the Honourable Member will bring to my notice any particular case, I shall be glad to look into it

(c) and (d) So long as there is necessity for control, the system of licences and permits has to be maintained. The case for licensing of trade was explained in a statement which was circulated by me to all the Honourable Members towards the end of the last week

(e) It has always been the aim of Government to see that rules relating to the administration of controls are so framed as to minimize possibilities of abuse

SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE

579. *Fundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Has the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture received any representations that slaughter of Cattle should be stopped in terms of notifications of the Government of India dated the 30th September, 1946, in the whole of India? Has any action been taken in the matter so far?

Mr. B. E. Sen: Some representations have been received for continuing the restrictions on the slaughter of cattle. No notification against the slaughter of cattle has been issued by the Government of India on the 30th September, 1946. Letters were issued to all Provincial Governments and Administrations on that date drawing their attention to the shortage of cattle in the country, both for cultivation and milk supply, and requesting them to take such measures as they may, in the light of local conditions, consider feasible to continue the restrictions on the slaughter of useful cattle hitherto imposed by most Provincial Governments and Administrations under the Defence of India Rules. According to information available to the Government of India, the Governments of Madras and Sind have so far assumed necessary legal powers and reimposed the restrictions on the slaughter of useful cattle

MANUFACTURE OF VEGETABLE GHEE FROM COTTON SEED

580. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton-seed is being used for the manufacture of vegetable ghee,

(b) if so, the names of the factories so using it,

(c) the quantity of cotton-seed being so used yearly; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps for preventing the use of cotton seed for vegetable ghee, in view of the urgent need for making adequate cattle food available?

Mr. B. E. Sen: (a) Yes

(b) The Ganesh Flour Mills, Delhi, the Modi Vanaspati Co., Modinagar, and the Hindustan Vanaspati Co., Bombay, are three factories which are reported to be using small quantities of cotton seed oil, mixed with ground nut oil for producing vanaspati

(c) 118 tons of cotton seed oil.

(d) Government do not propose to prevent the use of cotton seed for vanaspati production as they are advised that it will add to fats available for human consumption, without reducing food for cattle, as oil left in the cake after crushing is as much as cattle can digest.

PRICE OF COCONUT

561. ***Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a rise in the price of coconut; and if so, to what extent as compared with the pre-war price,

(b) whether it is a fact that quantities of coconut used to be imported, and if so, from what countries, and in what quantities during the years 1935-1946;

(c) what steps Government are taking to make coconut of a lower price more largely available to the consumers, and

(d) whether coconut oil is being used by the Soap Industry in India, and if so, the average quantity used during a year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The price of coconuts, at Calcutta has increased from Rs. 57-15-0 per thousand in 1928-29 and Rs. 20-14-0 per thousand in 1938-39 to Rs. 160 per thousand in September, 1946

(b) A statement showing the available information is laid on the table of the House

(c) Government have under consideration a scheme for fixing floor and ceiling prices for indigenous copra and coconut oil. It is expected that with the fixation of these prices the prices of raw coconuts will adjust themselves.

(d) Yes The quantity of coconut oil used by the Soap Industry in India during the quinquennium ending 1938-39 was estimated to average about 80,000 tons annually. The relevant data for recent years are not available

Imports of goods from different countries through British India ports and Kathiawar State ports

	(Thousand nats.)									
	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
Through British India ports—										
Ceylon	7,816	5,346	2,106	4,283	2,459	6,993	5,790	7,870	23,103	27,065
Maldives	1,311	1,004	1,487	1,829	1,963	1,537	1,321			
Straits Settlements	75	2	8	10	(a)	25				18,048
Others	11	3	13	31	(a)		202			1
Total	9,213	6,355	3,604	6,153	4,422	8,255	7,313	7,873	23,103	27,066
Through Kathiawar State ports*	24	...	30	14	57	8	17	40	284	144
Grand Total	9,237	6,355	3,654	6,167	4,479	8,263	7,330	7,90	23,387	27,210
										(b)
										18,081

(a) Less than 600 nats.

(b) Not yet available.

* Sources of imports are not available.

Source:—Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India, Volume I, Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of Burma and Trade Statistics relating to the Maritime States in Kathiawar and the State of Travancore

WAGES TO STRIKERS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT FOR STRIKE PERIOD

582. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Department of Communications please state

(a) if Government intend to pay the wages of the strikers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the period of strike, if so, when, if not, why not, and

(b) if it is a fact that the Honourable Member in charge of the Department at that time gave a promise that there will be no victimisation of the strikers?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (a) of Starred Question No 22 asked by Miss Maniben Kara on the 28th October, 1946

(b) Yes

STRIKE IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

583. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Department of Communications please state

(a) the number of employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department involved in the last Postal Strike,

(b) the categories to which they belonged, .

(c) the amount of their wages for the strike period,

(d) the number of outsiders employed during the strike period

(e) the number of days for which they were employed,

(f) the amount of work disposed of by them,

(g) the amount and remuneration and other expenses incurred on them, and

(h) if any vouchers were kept for tea and refreshments, etc supplied to them?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) to (e), (g) and (h) Information is being collected from subordinate offices. A statement will be laid on the table of the House as soon as complete facts are available

(f) It is not possible to estimate the actual amount of work disposed of by outsiders who were employed during the strike, they attended to the regular departmental work entrusted to them

RESEARCH WORK IN THE AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

584. *Sri V. O. Vellingri Gounder: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that not much research work is being done in the Agricultural Engineering Departments under Provincial Governments?

(b) Considering the importance of these agricultural engineering work to the development of agriculture, do Government propose to send suitable men to provinces for training in agricultural engineering and by subsidizing agricultural engineering workshops and in other suitable ways?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Government are aware that a certain amount of research work is done in agricultural engineering sections of Provincial Departments of Agriculture and that there is considerable scope for the expansion of such research work. Provision for the expansion of agricultural engineering activities exists in the Post-war Development Plans of several Provincial Governments

(b) Twenty four students have been sent abroad by Government for training in Agricultural Engineering. Financial assistance is given by the Central Government to the Provincial Governments for implementing their Post-war Development Plans which include Schemes for the expansion of agricultural engineering activities.

BAN IN BRITISH INDIA FOR ENTERING A PARTICULAR TRADE.

585. *Captain Syed Abid Hussain: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is a fact that within the limits of British India there exists no bar on any section of the population entering into a particular trade?

Mr. M. P. Pal: No, Sir

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CULTIVATION NEAR QUEENSWAY IN NEW DELHI

61. Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state if it is a fact that cultivation was done departmentally this year near Queensway in New Delhi?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above is in the affirmative, what was the expenditure on cultivation and labour charges, etc ?

(c) What was the area?

(d) How much was the produce?

(e) What was the total expenditure and income?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes The cultivation in the Central Vista was done by the Central P W D and the Horticultural Division under the direction of a Committee on which both the Agriculture and the W M and P Departments are represented

(b) to (e) The Honourable Member may kindly see the reply given to Starred Question No 24 asked by Mr Sri Prakasa on the 28th October, 1946

TELEPRINTER LINES IN INDIA

82. Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Department of Communications please state

(a) how many Indian and foreign news agencies have applied for permission to lay teleprinter lines in India,

(b) the date on which the monopoly of the Associated Press of India in this respect comes to an end, and

(c) whether Government propose to give preference in this matter to any news agency which agrees to install teleprinters in any Indian language?

Sir Harold Shobert: (a) Altogether seven news agencies have applied for lease of teleprinter circuits

(b) The only agency which leased circuits for the distribution of news before the war was Reuters, the existing 5-year lease will ordinarily expire in 1949.

(c) There are no teleprinters in Indian languages As regards preferences, no reply can be given at present as the whole question of policy in the leasing of teleprinter circuits to press agencies is still under consideration of Government

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. President: I find two short notice questions have been tabled, one by Mr Madandhari Singh and the other by Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi Both of them practically relate to the same matter. If the Honourable the Leader of the House so wishes, they may be replied together or they may be replied separately

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It would be preferable if I answer both of them together.

TOUR BY CABINET MINISTERS OF THE DISTURBED AREAS IN BENGAL AND BIHAR.

Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) In view of the fact that the Honourable the Leader of the House with his three colleagues has recently concluded a tour of the disturbed areas of Bengal and Bihar, will he be pleased to state whether he

proposes to give this House a comprehensive account of the situation in the affected areas of those Provinces?

(b) What actions do Government propose to take and what actions have already been taken by them to control the situation?

STATEMENT ON COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN BIHAR.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state whether Government propose to make a statement on the communal trouble in the country and particularly in the Province of Bihar?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, the question which Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi has read out is somewhat different from what is given to me. However, it is a question of wording.

I have accepted these short-notice questions not without hesitation, for it is no easy matter to deal with them. Any proper survey of the communal troubles in the country would be a big undertaking, hardly suited for a relatively brief answer to a question. Yet I have welcomed these questions, for it is the right of Honourable Members to inquire into matters of the most vital significance to the country, and of the House to know what the Government is doing about them. The House will realise that the subject is one which has excited passion all over the country and rightly agitated people's minds. It is difficult to deal with it without raising controversies which embitter. It is not my purpose or desire to say anything which would add to this bitterness or raise a fresh controversy in this House.

The newspapers are full of communal troubles and riots and bloody murder and much worse. No one, certainly not the Government, desires to suppress facts. This House must be seized of the facts so that it may form proper judgment and devise remedies. The facts are bad enough, terribly bad. And yet what often appears in the newspapers is something far removed from facts and the manner of presentation is such as to inflame public passion. I trust, and I am sure the House will agree with me, that it is the duty of all of us, and more especially of the Honourable Members, to be exceedingly careful in these days of crisis and disaster, to take every care not to say or to anything which might excite the people and worsen an already bad situation. One of the worst features of the situation is the dominance of rumours which exaggerates everything and sometimes creates out of nothing. The most fantastic accounts spread rapidly and are believed in. We have to suffer not only insecurity and public disorder, but something which is even worse because it feeds and nurtures that disorder. This is anarchy of the mind. It is just when crisis faces us that we have to maintain the equilibrium of our minds.

To give an account of the communal trouble in the country is to deal with a chain of events going back into the past. One evil action leads to another which again becomes the ostensible cause of further evil. The preaching and practice of hatred and violence inevitably sows seeds which yield bitter fruit. If we sow the wind we have to reap the whirlwind.

Ever since the Interim Government took charge of affairs they have been intensely occupied with these communal troubles. The House will remember that this Government took office very soon after what is called the great Calcutta killing which began on the 16th August. All our work was shadowed by these events and we tried our utmost to deal with this situation. The House knows that the Government of India may not interfere, under the existing constitution, with Provincial autonomy. In so far as any one can interfere under the constitution, it is the Governor-General and not the Governor-General in Council. Nevertheless, as Indians in responsible position to whom the country looked for guidance, we tried our utmost to help. Throughout this unhappy period, whether it was in Calcutta or elsewhere in India, or Noakhali and East Bengal, or Bihar, the Government were acutely conscious of their responsibilities and keenly desirous of combating the peril that had encompassed the country. There has been much public criticism of our seeming inaction because necessarily we could not function in public in regard to these matters. If facts were known, I do not think that this criticism would be considered to be justified.

[Pt Jawaharlal Nehru]

A succession of events, which are known to this House, led to the great Calcutta killing. That was followed by the great tragedy of Noakhali and East Bengal, and that again led to the terrible happenings in Bihar. And now Bihar is leading to other outbursts of brutality and violence. There appears to be a competition in murder and brutality, and unless we put a stop to this, the immediate future of our country is dark. That it can be put a stop to, I have little doubt. Not by a reliance on mere armed force, though that may be necessary occasionally, but by the efforts of all those who influence public opinion, can we put an end to this horror which comes in the way of all political and social progress, and indeed which is already making life a burden for many of us. It must be clearly accepted that we cannot settle any problem by the methods of hatred and violence.

Recently I have come into intimate contact with masses of people in Bihar and I saw the horrors that a simple and likeable peasantry can perpetrate when it loses of all balance and sanity. I found that during the Calcutta killing a large number of Biharis had lost their lives. Their relatives had returned to Bihar together with many other refugees and had spread out all over the rural areas carrying stories of what had happened in Calcutta. The people of Bihar were stirred profoundly. Then came news of Noakhali and East Bengal. These stories, and more especially the accounts of abduction and rape of women and forcible conversion of large numbers of people, infuriated the populace. For some time they looked to the Central Government and hoped that this would give them relief and afford protection. When they did not see any such help or protection forthcoming, they grew bitter and criticized strongly the Interim Government for its apparent inactivity.

Various incidents occurred in Bihar which added to the general excitement. Towards the end of October there was trouble in Chapra District and in Bhagalpur city. This was soon suppressed. Then came, on the 31st October, trouble on a big scale in Patna District, overflowing into Gaya and Monghyr Districts. It was in essence a mass uprising, large numbers of peasants burning and killing mercilessly. As always happens on such occasions, criminal and anti-social elements took part and even took the lead in certain areas. One of the difficulties of the situation was that the areas could not be easily reached because of lack of communications and flooded conditions.

This mass uprising lasted almost exactly one week. Just as it started suddenly, it ended almost equally suddenly. This rapid ending of a wide-spread movement, which was on the verge of spreading to other districts, was remarkable. The military, of course, came in at a somewhat later stage and helped in restoring order. But a much more powerful factor in this restoration of order was the effort of a large number of persons chiefly Biharis, who spread out all over the villages and came face to face with the peasant masses. The news of Mahatma Gandhi's proposed fast also had a powerful effect.

Grossly exaggerated accounts have appeared of the number of casualties during these troubles caused both by infuriated mobs and by military firing. It is difficult to give at present even approximately accurate figures of casualties. But it can be said with certainty that some of the figures appearing in newspapers are completely wrong. They are usually based on accounts of panic-stricken refugees who had lost all balance or judgment.

The Bihar situation was brought completely under control after a week and is quite now. Evidence of a return to normality is the desire of people to return to their villages. The great problem there now is how to rehabilitate these people. The Bihar Government have undertaken responsibility to lodge, feed and provide other necessities including medical relief to the evacuees. I understand that they also propose to give financial assistance to the sufferers in order to help rehabilitation.

As I have stated, the news from and about Noakhali created a very profound feeling in Bihar and the rest of India. I am not in a position to say much about present conditions in East Bengal. But recent reports from reliable witnesses have drawn particular attention to the vital problem of restoring women who

were abducted and forcibly converted. This problem is not only important in itself but also because of its all-India repercussions. It is, therefore, urgently necessary that every possible step should be taken with all possible speed to restore them to their people. Only then can beginnings be made of rehabilitation in East Bengal.

It is clearly the duty of the State to give every possible assistance to the sufferers from these disturbances. I hope that Provincial Governments will undertake this duty in adequate measure. This will help also in producing a feeling of security among the people and a psychological atmosphere for a return to normalcy.

Recent events around and near Delhi must be fresh in the minds of Honourable Members. It is time that we put an end to all this sorry business all over India, and I trust that every sensitive Indian, whatever his political views might be, will co-operate with others in this vital and urgent task.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether in view of the fact that the happenings in Noakhali were grossly exaggerated by the Press, what steps Government propose to take to see that such false news is not published in future so that we may not be faced with similar happenings in the future?

Mr. President: Order, order. Looking to the nature of the questions which desired for a statement from the Honourable the Leader of the House, I was just considering the position as to whether this should be treated as a normal question and supplementaries permitted. Both the Honourable Members who put in questions, one of them clearly says whether the Government "propose to make a statement" and the other question says that 'comprehensive account' is required. I am afraid if I were to treat these as short notice questions like other questions and allow supplementaries, then all that the Leader of the House has requested will go in vain. But that is not the only consideration on which I am proceeding. If under the Rules, these could be properly treated as questions, then I must allow supplementary questions, but as those are requests for statement and statement alone, I do not propose to allow any supplementary questions treating these as ordinary questions. The answer should be treated as a statement.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RIOTING AND BLOODSHED IN DELHI CITY

Mr. President: I have received notice of a motion for adjournment from Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan) Sir, I move for the adjournment of the House.

Mr. President: I am merely stating that I have received a notice of motion and the reason stated thereon is "the failure of the Government in not being able to stop effectively the rioting and bloodshed in the City of Delhi". It seems there are many hurdles in the way of this motion. In the first instance, notice of this was not given before the commencement of the Business of the House as required by Standing Order 22 which says

"The member asking for leave must, before the commencement of the sitting of the day, leave with the Secretary."

This notice was received by the Secretary two minutes past Eleven. That is after the House commenced business. That is the first hurdle.

The second hurdle is that notice is to be given not only to the Secretary but to the President and the Member of the Government to whose Department it relates. I understand that no notice has been given to the Honourable Member of the Government to whose Department this adjournment motion relates. Is that a correct statement of fact by me? Will the Honourable Member, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, say whether he has given a copy of this notice to the Honourable Member of Government?

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: I gave notice about half an hour ago to the Secretary.

Mr. President: More than half an hour ago from now.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: I thought the Secretary would hand it over to the Member concerned, the Home Member.

Mr. President: Did the Honourable Member in fact give any notice before eleven of the Clock?

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: That is a technical shortcoming.

Mr. President: Then did he give notice to the Honourable Member in charge of the department? Obviously not. So no further consideration is necessary in respect of this motion and I cannot accept it.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi General): Sir, may I request the Honourable Home Member through you to make a statement on the situation in Delhi, about which we all feel immediately concerned?

Mr. President: That is a matter between the Honourable Member and the Home Member. They can settle it outside the House, but if my permission is wanted for making a statement I shall see whether it should be given or not. At present I do not commit myself to anything.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Wednesday, the 18th November, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the purpose of election of one member to be a member of the Committee on Public Accounts, one nomination was received. As there is only one candidate for the vacancy, I declare Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang to be duly elected to the Committee.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEJAZ.

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 18th November, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the purpose of election of one Muslim member to serve on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz, for the unexpired portion of the life of the Committee constituted on the 1st April, 1944, and due to expire on the 31st March, 1947, one nomination was received. As there is only one candidate for the vacancy, I declare Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan to be duly elected to the Committee.

REPORTS OF THE LABOUR INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE—LAID ON THE TABLE

Mr. S. C. Joshi (Government of India Nominated Official): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following *Reports of the Labour Investigation Committee

- 1 Report on an Enquiry into Conditions of Labour in the Match Industry in India
- 2 Report on an Enquiry into Conditions of Labour in the Principal Municipalities in India
- 3 Report on an Enquiry into the Conditions of Labour employed in Ports.
- 4 Report on an Enquiry into Conditions of Labour in the Jute Mill Industry in India.
- 5 Report on an Enquiry into Conditions of Labour in the Cotton Mill Industry in India
- 6 Report on Labour Conditions in Tanneries and Leather Goods Factories.

*Not printed in the Debates. Copies placed in the Library—Ed of D.

- 7 Report on Labour Conditions in Tram and Bus Services
- 8 Report on Labour Conditions in Printing Presses
- 9 Report on Labour Conditions in Sugar Factories
- 10 Report on Non-Gazetted Railway Services
- 11 Report on Labour Conditions in the Cotton Ginning and Baling Industry.
- 12 Report on an Enquiry into Conditions of Labour in the Engineering and Minerals and Metals Industries in India
- 13 Report on Labour Conditions in the Central Public Works Department

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, may I know if copies of these reports will be circulated to Honourable Members of this House?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: Yes, an attempt is being made to circulate copies of these reports to Members of the House

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about previous reports?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: Copies were kept here and Honourable Members who desired to have them were requested to ask for them, and those who asked for them got them

BANKING COMPANIES (RESTRICTION OF BRANCHES) BILL—concluded

Mr. President: The House will now take up the consideration of the Banking Companies Bill Mr Sanyal will resume his speech

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, yesterday I tried to make out in my own humble way the drawbacks and the objections in respect of the present Bill I tried to make out my case on the ground principally that since this matter along with other matters is before a competent committee and since that committee is going to meet very shortly after the termination of this session, this haste seems to be very much undesirable While on this point I shall invite the attention of the Honourable Finance Member to the graduation in the time and the gradual wisdom of Government in bringing a matter which was originally not in the main conception of the Bill For example, even if we take the Honourable Finance Member's proposition, as we must take it, regarding the facts namely, that from 1938 there was a rapid march in the number of banks and branches, I will draw attention to the fact that between 1938 and 1944 nothing was done, and in 1944 when the first comprehensive Bill for consolidation and management of banking concerns was taken up there was no provision which is analogous or similar to the provision which is now before the House In 1944 the legislature or the authors of the Bill did not consider it at all necessary to go into the question of restricting the operations of banks, old or new Then in 1946 when the bigger Bill came as a substitute for the previous Bill this question came in a much more restricted form, namely, that when new branches are proposed to be opened the Reserve Bank will go into the question of public interest involved But now it is said that what is wanted is to put into immediate operation only clause 18 of the previous Bill I submit that there is a great deal of difference between this Bill and the previous Bill in that not only the question of public interest will be concerned but also wider and more complicated and sometimes very elusive questions of the financial structure and capital position of the bank itself

Now, Sir, yesterday I submitted and I maintain that it is a very controversial question, and this matter is so very intimately connected with other provisions of the Bill that there is no point in hurrying it through at this stage What is the time that will be gained by Government? If the Bill is passed today it will have to go to the other House and we are not sure whether they will be able to dispose of it there, because some other legislative business is already before them which they will have to dispose of before they can concentrate on this Therefore I submit that since the Select Committee is going to finish its business in December or at least some time before the opening of the next session of the House, much will not be gained by getting this Bill passed,

[Mr Sasanka Sekhri Sanjal]

and certainly much will be lost because certain untoward circumstances may be brought into existence which, even if Government in their wisdom think will be necessary for the financial interest of the depositors, will ultimately prove to be an impediment to the proper and natural development of some of the very legitimate organisations which go by the name of banking concerns. Yesterday I made reference to the fact that on the one hand there is a contraction imposed by Government in the matter of capital issues, while on the other hand there will be a restriction in the matter of opening branches. So from both ends new enterprises will suffer, and not only new enterprises all over the country but some of the provinces which are comparatively backward in banking matters will particularly suffer. For instance, Bombay and the Punjab have gone much more ahead than other provinces in banking matters. They have got a hold over the whole country, but that does not apply to other provinces. For instance, in my friend's province of Assam there are not more than one or two banks, new banks must come into existence and new branches must also be allowed to function. In Orissa again there is no bank worth the name. Of course Bihar and Bengal stand in a better position than Assam and Orissa, but still compared with the developments in the Punjab and Bombay they are as yet in a state of infancy, and nothing should be done to impede the progress of their banking institutions today. It may be contended that this Bill does not restrict altogether the functioning of these organisations but that it gives the Reserve Bank a power to grant or to refuse permission for these concerns. There is the rub, because neither this law nor the legislature have framed any adequate rules for guidance in the matter of granting or refusing such permission. After all to say vaguely that the Reserve Bank will consider the financial structure, is the rule of the thumb. It is open to the Reserve Bank to say that a bank in Assam, for instance, which is proposing to open a branch has not the financial structure approximating to the standard. There is no standard, there is no statutory provision, there is not even any standard rule. So the Reserve Bank of India will always have the option of refusing any application however desirable that application or that enterprise might be. The Reserve Bank of India has got its own autonomy, it is a sort of autocratic autonomy. The Reserve Bank of India has in the past fattened upon the flesh of all organisations and enterprises and in return the Reserve Bank has not rendered anything. Even last week I know some of the banking concerns in my province—Bengal—have been put under a great handicap. I will not mention names. As I promised yesterday, I will take some of these cases personally to the Honourable the Finance Member and I hope he will pay his attention to the situation with which these banking concerns are confronted. The Reserve Bank keeps in their custody large amounts of money from the other banks, but what do they do in return? Last week some of the banks were put in a very tight corner. Some banks had to close their doors. I have authority to submit that this situation has been brought about less on account of mal-administration on the part of banks themselves than on account of the fact that they were not awarded proper facilities by the Reserve Bank in the matter of expanding their capital issue. But when this exigency arose, did the Reserve Bank of India do anything? Did it try to stand by these struggling banks which were passing through a crisis? After all, if the Reserve Bank enjoys powers, it has got to shoulder the corresponding responsibilities also. The Reserve Bank has turned out to be an institution of bureaucrats. Sir, I cannot speak on behalf of everybody, but on behalf of myself and on behalf of those who think on the same lines, I would appeal to the Government to retrace their steps in the matter of giving more and more powers to the Reserve Bank of India. I would far rather welcome this authority being kept by the Government themselves because at least today when the Government is in the hands of persons who are representatives of progressive political parties, they will go into the questions of their merits and they will be responsible. The Reserve Bank of India will deal with things in the abstract and they will neither have any responsibility nor responsiveness. They refuse a particular application however good and sound on merit that application may

be. May I ask what is the remedy? The Central Government has not even the power of hearing appeal. There is no other body which can intervene if the aggrieved bank or if the dissatisfied party wants to make out a case that their application should have been considered on merits.

Then, Sir, there is another aspect. I do not feel happy to make a reference to that, but still I will be failing in my duty if I did not voice the protest of many sections who have reported this matter to me. Supposing a Bank is proposed to be opened at Assam or Orissa, they will have to go to the authorities of the Reserve Bank from that distant province. There is no personal touch between the composition of the Bank and the composition of the Reserve Bank. You know how things turn out as a result of this? These *bona fide* promoters of banks and banking concerns have to get hold of intermediaries—a sort of unauthorized machinery which has cropped up and developed round the archives of the Reserve Bank, persons who have got neither any legal nor moral *locus standi*—who stand as a link between the Reserve Bank authorities and enterprising concerns. That is to say, a bank before it can get a permit must get hold of some unlicensed agent. This is not fair. They are not functionaries who are authorized either in the legal or ethical sense of the word. But they have a great deal of influence, and any new concern or any branch of a new concern must have to pay something as a mark of respect to these people before they can cross the threshold of the Reserve Bank of India. I do not mean to say that there is anything wrong within the composition of the Reserve Bank itself, but I submit and maintain that since between the Reserve Bank and the remote corner of the village there is no normal or constitutional or any other natural connection, therefore people who have got to get their business done have to flock to such functionaries and agencies which more or less constitute a sort of blackmarket, and that must be avoided. Therefore, to sum up, I express my objections to this Bill on the ground that it is hasty, on the ground that it is piecemeal, and on the ground that it tries to rush through a matter which is highly controversial, and there is no need for this haste and hurry.

Coming to the structure of the Bill itself, my Honourable friend in clause 3 has proposed something regarding the location of banks. It says

“No banking company shall open a new branch or change the location of an existing branch.”

Sir, today I can concretely deal with propositions and they are not hypothetical and academic, because change of location may mean the change of village, or the change of town, or even the change of building itself. What is happening in East Bengal? Buildings of certain banks have been devastated, papers have been destroyed, and in some cases papers have been removed by the authorities. Is it expected that that bank must function in the original village and in the original building, and that the bank cannot come into operation without going through the process of getting an authority from the Reserve Bank of India? From the exigencies of the situation, it may have been so necessary that a bank which functioned in one village yesterday must function elsewhere today otherwise it will come to a crash. So is it the desire of the Government that in these context of things, these parties and these institutions must cry a halt and then go to the ashes and then wait for a permit from the Reserve Bank? It is a permit which will be absolutely infructuous! What is the provision that is going to be made? A burnt house may create the necessity of a new house for an old branch of a bank. That will mean a change of location. What about this state of things? Therefore, I will appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to look into this question and, if necessary, get it amended suitably.

Then I come to a more technical, but certainly a very fundamental aspect of the Bill,—penalty. Is this penalty going to be a sentence as we understand it in criminal law, or is it going to be damage as we ordinarily understand it? This leads to the more real question. Who will inflict this penalty? There must be some judicial authority. Will it be criminal authority or civil authority? Will this penalty be determined by a trial in the civil court or by a trial

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 in the criminal court? The language is absolutely incomplete. It does not give an indication and therefore the trouble lies there. After all a man cannot be tried for any contravention of any law unless that law specifically provides that he will be tried under the Criminal Procedure Code or tried as a criminal offence. Without going into the larger question, I will even draw a comparison between this Bill and the bigger Bill which is before the Select Committee. In that more comprehensive Bill, there is a provision which says that the contraventions will not be tried except by a Magistrate of the status of Presidency Magistrate and not lower than that. So far by a clear implication, this is a provision in the Bill that the contravention of the provisions of the law was proposed to be treated as a crime. But since the present measure does not make it clear, we cannot take it for granted and we cannot assume that it will be a crime and not a contravention of the civil law. Therefore, the procedure must be determined. It must be stated who are the authorities who will try and how it will be tried.

There is another matter, that is the sanctioning authority for such prosecutions. After all, during the last ten or twelve years when special legislations have brought into existence a new set of crimes, a salutary feature has been introduced that there must be some specific sanctioning authority for such prosecution. That is very fair and necessary, because under the ordinary criminal law, where offences are done, anyone can set the law in motion except when they relate to certain functions and certain public servants. Otherwise a man in the street can put the law into operation. That is not the purpose in the case of such special legislation because if anyone has the authority to set the law in motion, then very undesirable complications may set in. Here where a particular officer goes for an inspection, probably the bank authorities may have some difficulties at that time. It may be that the Manager may be busy, wants some time. This might prick the vanity of the officer concerned and might complain to the Court for taking action. Therefore some sanctioning authority is necessary. I could understand if the Finance Member proposed that no such prosecution will be allowed except with the sanction of the Finance Department or some authority of the Reserve Bank or something like that to go into the alleged contravention before the matter is brought into the Court. Idle and vexatious complaints it is certainly desirable to avoid. There are control orders and other orders where District Magistrates and Local Governments are given powers, a similar provision should be made in the Bill.

Therefore, I submit that if it is possible for the Honourable the Finance Member to hand over this Bill to the Select Committee which is already in existence, that will be a very fair state of things and it will neither prejudice the Government nor the other party. We are there let us go with an open mind on this case. A difference of a month or two will not bring the heavens upon us. And the other course to which I hinted was that this hasty and rushed legislation might bring about unpleasant complications at the end.

With these observations I commend my motion for acceptance by the House.

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Lajpat Ali Khan, the Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, Sir Gwasjee Ichhan Mr. K. G. Ambekar, Mr. Ram Nath, Mr. M. A. F. Huzel, Mr. Geoffrey W. Tve Khan, Mohammad Yamin Khan, Haji Abbas Sattar, Haji Ishaq Seth, Seth Yusuf Abdul Haqim, Mr. Mohd. M. Killeddar, Mr. Manu Subedar, Shri Mahan Lal Sakseena, Shri Anantharaman Ayyangar, Mr. P. R. Gole, Sri T. A. Rameshram, Chettai Sri R. Narayan Sadas, Sardar Manohar Singh and the Mover with instructions to report by 31st December 1946 and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. K. G. Ambekar (Government of India, Nominated Official). I see from the speech to which the House has just listened that there is considerable misunderstanding with regard to the scope, measure and the necessity of the Bill before the House. I feel therefore that it would facilitate and expedite the passage of this measure if I were to intervene on behalf of the Government.

this stage and place before the House some of the facts and figures which have led the Government to ask for immediate legislation

The Honourable the Finance Member, in view of the very crowded legislative programme before the House, confined himself to the general features of the Bill and did not go into the details. I feel I would not be wasting the time of the House if I went into these details if they would remove some of the misapprehensions

In the first place, I would like to deal with the point raised by Mr Sanyal about the lack of information regarding the new branches which have been opened since 1st January 1946, and particularly since the Banking Companies Bill was introduced

The reason why the figures were not given is that these statistics are not received till the end of the year. Banks are required only to submit figures and supply information regarding their branches, etc., at the end of every year. All the same, we have not proceeded without any basis. The point on which we have got definite information is regarding the opening of new branches by schedule banks, and these figures I can lay before the House now. In the first quarter of 1946 the new branches of the schedule banks opened were 79 in the period from April to June 1946 the figure is 73 and for the period July to September 1946, it is 140

You will see that during the half year since the Banking Bill was introduced, as many as 213 branches have been opened by schedule banks alone. As every one knows the schedule banks form a very small proportion of the total number of banks in this country

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) What is the proportion?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: There are 93 scheduled banks and there are about 500 non-schedule banks. So if you go on that proportion it will be something terrific. But I should not imagine that it goes by the same proportion.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadian Rural). It is merely hypothetical.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I am not saying so. At the same time the branches are expanding at a fast rate.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadian Rural). What was the number of branches opened in the corresponding period of last year?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: You mean in the first quarter it was 79 in the second quarter 73 and in the third quarter 140. What were the corresponding figures for last year, so that we can see whether there is a real urgency?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I am sorry those figures are not here. I thought I had supplied myself with all the figures that Honourable Members would want.

Anyway, the point I wish to make is with reference to Mr Sanyal's argument that the development of branches is not taking place for the purpose of forestalling and vitiating in advance the provisions of the Banking Companies Bill. Government's standpoint in this respect has been entirely misunderstood. It is not stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, nor did the Honourable the Finance Member say that banks are actually going about opening new branches in order to forestall or vitiate these provisions. The fact is that expansion is happening and a very large number of branches are being opened and the provisions of the Bill are being forestalled, that is to say, these banks are coming into existence and there is no means of stopping it. That is all that was meant when it was said that the provisions are being forestalled.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will you give the figures for the entire year 1945?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: Those were given by the Honourable the Finance Member. At the end of 1945 the number of banks was 5,266. At the end of 1944 the number was 4,550. If you deduct the latter from the former the number is about 700, i.e., there has been an increase of 700 banks during 1945.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: There is no abnormality in it

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: It is not a question of abnormality. My point is that the increase is taking place in very large numbers and this expansion is accompanied by certain very undesirable features which the Honourable Finance Member mentioned. What I want to explain by facts and figures is the abuses to which the Finance Member referred. I am not going to say this on the basis of hearsay and popular impression or the prejudices of a bureaucrat but on the basis of actual facts and figures collected after investigation. I have got here a list of 77 banks with their names, their paid up capital, the number of branches, where these branches operate and the manner in which they operate. If I were to read out all those, I am sure it will give a shock to the whole House. I do not want to take up the time of the House by going into the case of each bank. I shall however mention a few salient cases.

In the first place, I have a bank here in Calcutta

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce). May I request the Honourable Member not to mention any specific banks by name, as they will collapse tomorrow? You can give case A or case B.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: The Honourable Member may rest assured that I am as conscious of my responsibility in this matter as he is. There is a bank in Calcutta with a capital of about six lakhs and it has got 43 branches. These branches are spread over Bengal, Bihar, C P and the U P and nearly all of them are working at a loss. This is on the basis of a proper investigation and not on hearsay.

Again there is another bank in Calcutta with a capital of 9,36,000. It has got 67 branches. You might say that it has sufficient amount of capital. This bank was also inspected and the result showed that its capitalised expenses amounted to as much as 2,47,000 as on the 4th October 1945 and they have wiped out 38 per cent of its paid up capital.

Mr. President: In giving these figures will the Honourable Member state whether it is authorised capital or issued capital?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I have got figures for reserve and paid up capital.

Mr. President: The whole of the capital need not be paid up. Only a part of it may be paid up.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: That is certainly so. This bank has opened 6 branches during the last three years and only 15 of them are reported to be working at a profit. The bank is frittering away its resources on opening branches and the way in which the branches are opened, is curious—lavish advertisements and entertainments at the time of the opening of branches. A this expense is incurred in spite of the fact that there is this huge amount of capitalised expenditure of three lakhs already there.

I have a third instance of a bank in Calcutta with a capital of 7,60,000 and it has 42 branches. This capital on examination was found to have entirely disappeared and the value of the capital and reserve actually comes to a minus figure.

Then I have a most wonderful case, where a bank with a capital of 1,38,000 has got 77 branches. Capitalised expenses amount to 72,000 and they have wiped out nearly 58 per cent of the paid up capital. The bank has paid dividends at six and seven per cent during the years 1943-44 in spite of the existence of this capitalised expenditure. The bank is also following a reckless policy of offering high rates of interest on deposits to depositors. The depositors are not paid back their deposits and they have come to us with a complaint.

There is another bank with a capital of 1,65,000 and 30 branches. We have received complaints from the depositors that they are not getting back their money. Another bank with a capital of 1,00,000 has 28 branches spread over Travancore, Bihar and Bombay. This bank is in the habit of closing its branches without meeting its obligations at these places. The creditors at some of these places have already come to the Government with a complaint.

Then there is a seventh bank which has a capital of 1,43,000 and it has 22 branches. It has a capitalised expense amounting to 28,000 and they have wiped out 97 per cent of the paid up capital

I will come now to smaller banks. There is a bank with a capital of 69,000 and 50 branches. These branches are spread over Assam, Bengal, C P and Orissa. There is another bank with a capital of 87,000 and 86 branches.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadian Rural): The poorer the man, the larger the number of children!

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What is the remedy for this state of affairs?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: First of all I am giving the facts to the House in order to point out the moral. I shall now come to banks with a capital of less than Rs 50,000. There is a bank in Calcutta whose capital and reserve paid up capital is Rs 46,000. It has 19 branches—in Calcutta, Benares, Jullundur, Ambala and other places. These branches have been opened during the course of a few months and we have already received complaints from the depositors that they are not getting back their money. Another small bank with a paid up capital of Rs 24,000 has 34 branches. It declared a dividend of five per cent in spite of the fact that it has a capitalised expense which is more than one third of the capital. There is another bank with a capital of Rs 10,000 and 21 branches.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: And yet they get depositors!

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: They do get depositors.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): That is what we are trying to prevent.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: I have got a whole list of 77 banks here and I have only mentioned a few typical cases. After listening to this I do hope that the House will realise the gravity and seriousness of the situation. These are facts which are not generally known to the public. To say that these banks are conducted by business people who know their business and therefore we should leave them to their own discretion is to fail to take notice of the fact that these banks are not conducted with their own money. Unlike industrial companies banks are operated with the money of depositors more than on share capital. In the matter of shares you can expect a man investing his money to have some business sense. But the poor depositors are taken in by the high sounding name or the big signboard of a bank and put their deposits without really knowing that they are throwing away their money into the drain. Therefore in the case of banks it is really the responsibility of the State to see that this sort of fraud is not exercised on the public and to save the public from their own folly.

One more point which was raised was that this is going to penalise new banks, and that the older banks which have already established a large number of branches will be allowed to retain their gains. So far as the more substantial banks are concerned, I do not think anybody will object to their retaining those branches, but the main point is this: where the extension of the kind which I have described now has taken place in the case of unsound banks, the economic forces are bound to bring their own retribution. These banks are not going to last. What they do at present is that when they find that one branch

where they have taken deposits is not able to repay they open another branch and take more deposits there and pay off the deposits in the first branch, but this sort of paying Peter by robbing Paul cannot go on for ever, and this process has already started. I have the case of a bank in Calcutta which was started in 1934 and which has four branches in 1941. Then it was taken over by a new and enterprising and enthusiastic managing director, and by the end of 1948 this bank had opened 14 branches in various places in Bengal, Bihar and United Provinces and the Punjab. The result was that it went on getting all these deposits and could not repay them and now the Calcutta High Court has ordered its winding up. I have got instances of four other cases where the Calcutta High Court has already ordered winding up and there are about 7 cases pending.

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before the Calcutta High Court. You can see what is happening. All these banks are going to come into liquidation, they are not going to pay back their depositors, and all these lakhs and lakhs of rupees of hard earned money is going to be lost. Can we say that we are taking hasty action in stopping this kind of loss to the poor public?

There is of course a provision for inspection of banks, but that is really like bolting the door after the horse has gone away. We must attack this evil at its source, and the only way we can do it is by restricting the indiscriminate opening of these branches.

Various other points have been raised. One is that the backward provinces will suffer and that provinces and banks which have already expanded and have a large number of branches will gain. I am afraid that is misunderstanding the principal object of this Bill altogether. It does not prohibit altogether the opening of new branches. What it wants to ensure is that places which have not got proper banking facilities should get them, rather than that branches should be opened in places which are already over-banked. The result of over-banking is, as the Honourable Finance Member has already said, not to offer new banking facilities but only taking away deposits from the banks already there, and this can only be done by offering a very high rate of interest; that in its turn leads to the giving of loans at very high rates of interest, and naturally when parties are prepared to pay high rates of interest on their loans they are not parties to whom ordinary prudent business people will lend money. The result of this kind of competition in places where there are already sufficient banking facilities is that ultimately the bank gets into a position where it has given away all its funds in bad loans. So it is definitely necessary that we should check the further expansion of banks in places where there are sufficient banking facilities, and this is what this Bill will do. What it will do is that by checking that sort of growth, it will certainly encourage the opening of new branches in new places, and provinces like Orissa and Assam which are said not to have proper banking facilities will, by this measure, be benefitted rather than be injured.

I will just deal with one more point before I finish. It has been asked, why this haste? It is stated that the Banking Companies Bill has already been referred to Select Committee, and why should we not wait till the Select Committee has reported and the Bill is passed in the next session? The difficulty is that the urgency of the problem has become extremely serious, as the House would have realised from the facts and figures which I have quoted, but it is not a matter of waiting for two or three months only. The Select Committee on the Banking Companies Bill has not yet met.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: It has met once.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: It has not met for examining the Bill, it met only for a preliminary discussion. I am myself a member of the Select Committee. It is proposed to hold a meeting during the interval between this session and the next session, and it is hoped that the Bill will come before the Assembly at the next session. If we are lucky we may be able to get it through. That is very problematical, considering the very heavy legislative programme that is before the House. But even if it is passed at the next session, it will take another six months before it is brought into force because regulations have got to be published under the Bill, so that it will be practically a year before we will be in a position to stop further expansion of banks, and what will happen during that time? Are we going to allow indiscriminate expansion of branches and severe losses being caused to the public meanwhile?

In regard to the technical points about the Bill which the Honourable Member pointed out I hope he realises that this Bill being only a part taken out of the Banking Companies Bill is necessarily not so complete. On the other hand, it is not just clause 18(6), because certain other powers have got to be given here. If you consider the other clauses of the Banking Companies Bill and this Bill, you will find that it is practically on the same lines. The objection

of my honourable friend to the Reserve Bank being given all this authority is, I am afraid, based on certain prejudices against the Reserve Bank, which I certainly cannot share, and which are, I think, due to his being misinformed. After all the Reserve Bank is the Central banking authority. The prejudice which is felt against the Reserve Bank may be due to the fact that it does not go to the help of various banks, that prejudice is due to the fact that people do not know what are the statutory functions of the Reserve Bank. There are certain things that the Reserve Bank can do, there are other things which it cannot do, and certainly it is not the function of the Reserve Bank, which holds the reserves of all the other banks to go and give these reserves to banks which are financially not in a sound position. The Reserve Bank always comes to the help of banks which are sound but which are in temporary difficulties. But what it does not do is that it does not go to the help of banks which are financially intrinsically unsound. It will not be right for the Reserve Bank to go to the help of such a bank. By doing so, it will not only endanger its own existence but endanger the existence of all the other banks whose money it holds. I should also refute one little charge made against the Reserve Bank, that the Reserve Bank is not directly approachable and people have to employ all sorts of intermediaries. I know personally that there is nothing more open than the Reserve Bank. Anybody can walk in any time and see the Governor of the Bank. I myself have seen that the poor Governor of the Reserve Bank, who should be thinking of the most serious problems of this country, is being flooded by visitors who ought never to be allowed to see the Governor. People who have to do serious business should have some time for their work, and here because the Governor is easily approachable by everybody and anybody, everybody goes and takes up his time. I am sorry I brought in the Governor's name but it is so with all officers. There is no reason why anybody should employ an intermediary unless they have got something to hide. By having intermediaries, they will gain nothing. They can easily send in an application to the Reserve Bank and it will always be properly attended to. The feeling that the Reserve Bank is not approachable and therefore power should not be given to them is entirely wrong. You might as well say that the Government of India should not exist because it is not approachable from the far ends of the country. (Interruption) I am sorry I am going beyond my depths. Sufficient facts have come to the notice of the Government to make them realise the horror of the situation, the havoc that is being created and the urgent necessity of taking steps. It is not that Government have introduced this Bill in order to get away with something, without proper consideration. All the facts and figures have been gone into with the greatest consideration and it was after a lot of hesitation that Government took up this measure simply because they realised that if they did not do so they would be guilty of the greatest dereliction of duty.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanjal: Who is the authority who will impose this fine, the Reserve Bank or the Government of India or a Criminal or a Civil Court?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: It has been described as an offence. An offence can be taken cognisance of by a Criminal Court.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: My friend has not replied about the opening of branches which have been destroyed by flood fire or otherwise.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: The word location will be interpreted in its proper sense—from one place to another and not from one building to another.

With these words, I appeal to the House to try and appreciate the gravity of the situation and not to introduce any dilatory motions which might make it difficult for us to take immediate action.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I heard with very great interest and sympathy all that fell from my Honourable friend Mr. Sanjal as indeed I had heard two previous speeches by him on the Banking Bill and if I may modestly say that, I am thoroughly apprised of the actual problem, which is worrying him. I am entirely at one with my friend Mr. Sanjal with regard to the capital issue and

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

with regard to the Reserve Bank. On the capital issue, I want to use the privilege which I have as a member of this House and say here and now that nothing could be more erratic than the manner in which the capital issue branch of this government have acted specifically with regard to banks where no foreign purchase of equipment or anything like that was involved. In the streets of Bombay it is openly said that there was a regular tariff of illicit gratification in the Capital Issue Department varying with the amount of capital. This, Sir, is an allegation which I make for the Honourable the Finance Member to put down for investigation. Some people did come from Bombay at all events and got away in three days with the licences, whereas others were kept waiting for six months and 18 months. It was 18 months in the case of a company of which I am a director. This capital issue department has behaved abominably particularly with regard to banks. I cannot imagine any financial or any other sound reason for refusing to enable a bank to increase its capital. This was the most suitable time, when bank shares were quoted high, when banks were making very great profits, for small banks to increase their resources. It is a just and proper grievance of my friend and though this does not arise directly out of this Bill, I trust the Honourable the Finance Member will deal with this aspect and give some kind of re-assurance that banking companies will not be starved by refusing permission with regard to this.

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: Would the Honourable Member recommend the grant of permission for capital issues even in the case of banks which are definitely unsound and which have lost all their capital?

Mr. President: These points may be taken up after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (the Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, I wish my Honourable friend the Finance Secretary had not been so impatient or so sensitive to a just and proper criticism of the Capital Issue Department. Since he has raised this issue, I would be detained for a couple of minutes over this matter. Does he imply that all rejections or all acceptances were on financial grounds? If so may I know who examined the finances of the applying banks? And is there any guarantee that those who got the sanction got it because they were on the Provincial or the Central Boards of the Reserve Bank or through their influential friends? Does it mean that all the sanctions were done on a proper footing? Sir, without the slightest hesitation I say that Sir Allan Lloyd and Co. were not the competent party to examine these issues. They had not time and they had certainly not the equipment to go into this; and the suggestion that all this was done in order to safeguard shareholders who might otherwise have come in as shareholders of these banks is a very far-fetched one. Has the Capital Issues Capital Department safeguarded other shareholders to whom the sanctions have been given? In any case, may I know why a disclaimer was given on the floor of this House by the then Finance Member to my question that the capital sanction does not in any sense involve a guarantee or a certificate even that a particular enterprise is sound? Then, Sir, if I am told that it was the Reserve Bank who advised the Capital Issue Department, as I am sure I shall be told, then may I know why the Reserve Bank failed in its further public duty and permitted institutions who were not sound enough to be permitted to increase their capital? But they permitted these institutions to survive. There are at present remedies in the hands of any creditor and any shareholder to get the affairs of a bank examined and compulsory liquidation by the High Court could be ordered. Why was not then, this public duty done either by the Reserve Bank or by those who wanted to help the Capital Issue Department? I reiterate what I said before with full sense of responsibility that in the streets of Bombay it is common talk that there was a regular scale of illicit gratifications in the Capital Issue Depart-

ment varying with the amount of capital which you were trying to raise and that scores of licences were secured by persons who had adopted these particular means. Will the Government make an inquiry in this matter?

Now, Sir, as I said, I entirely agree with the capital issue complained of by Mr. Sanyal and I appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to give an assurance and also to direct the Department to look into it that applications by banks who want to increase their capital in order to put their affairs into proper order ought not to be impeded. With regard to the Reserve Bank he and I are entirely at one. The officially recognised departmental tradition is one which neither this country nor this House accepts and it will have to be adjusted and modified. The Reserve Bank has played the position of a policeman. It has done several things listlessly. Like an octopus it has grown and it has exercised powers without obligations and it has not certainly taken the care, as, indeed, the Finance Secretary mentioned that it was not their duty, that it should have. It should be the duty of the Reserve Bank to take care of institutions, to guide them and to help them and generally to permit them to be consolidated. While speaking on the Banking Bill, I had pointed out—and I will not detain the House with any great detail about it—to the necessity of appointing a Curator of banking in India and he should have a Curator under him in every province, who would be in direct touch with all the banks and who would understand their needs and their difficulties and, if necessary, use the funds to help them, not the funds of the other banks which are the reserves which the Reserve Bank keeps but the extensive funds of the Government which the Reserve Bank has got—and the Reserve Bank is fortunately restricted from receiving accounts of other parties—through funds in the hands of the Reserve Bank and the extensive profits which it transfers to Government, even if it was necessary to engage one or two crores of rupees in order to help little institutions. That was the point which I emphasised and I trust my Honourable friend Mr. Sanval will join with me in the Select Committee in order to enforce in the bigger Bill which is there that the Reserve Bank, while being endowed with more and more powers, should also have obligations likewise in order to see that the banking of this country is in a very healthy condition. So far as my friend's position to this particular small Bill is concerned I regret I disagree with him. What I feel is that, as they say, when the head is aching, he is applying medicine to the chest. He does not want this Government to go ahead with this Bill because there have been difficulties and very real difficulties which he pointed out and with which I sympathise but those difficulties cannot be put right in the manner in which he seeks to do by merely having this Bill not passed during this session. Sir, this was a point on which I accused this Government not of being hasty but of being dilatory. I do not know whether this Government regards itself as heirs or successors or assigns of the previous Government. But let me tell the House a little of the history.

It was in 1931 that the Central Banking Committee reported and both the majority and minority reports were entirely unanimous on the subject that the central banking authority of this country should have absolute powers in order to regulate the number of branches and other activities of the banks and in order to bring them in a very healthy condition. When Sir James Grigg arrived in this country, I was the Chairman of the Indian Merchants Chamber and in the first formal visit of the then Finance Member I pointed out the desirability of taking up the recommendations of the Central Banking Committee and implementing them by legislation. Did he do anything about it? To his discredit, I may say he did not. What about his successor Sir Jeremy Raisman? For six years this man had power over the finances of this country which he abused. Did Sir Jeremy Raisman undertake the banking legislation? No, Sir, except during the last three days of his existence in this country and then the Assembly was re-elected and so the old Bill lapsed. In other words, I accuse this Government in their capacity as successors, heirs or assigns of the previous Government of having delayed unduly and too long this particular measure and I am therefore glad that the Honourable the Finance Member has brought this Bill up. But apart from this general issue which I am putting to the House I think my

[Mr Manu Subedar]
Honourable friend the Finance Member has not exaggerated the evil in his opening remarks, the great evil to put an end to which this particular Bill has been brought about. He has mentioned some aspects of it and I may tell this House one or two other aspects of it. I do not want to take too long a time over this issue. It would be interesting in order to allay the feeling in this House that this Bill is premature or that it should not be rushed through.

Sir, does this House know what is known as interlocking finance? My friend Mr Sanyal, I am afraid, was speaking with too much provincial bias from Bengal. While recognising the particular problem which he stressed, I do feel and I do appeal to this House not to be led away by the purely provincial issue in Bengal or Assam. There is an all India issue about this. Banks are growing up. They are growing in wrong places and of the wrong type and at the wrong time and it is therefore necessary for Government or the Government's financial Agent, the Reserve Bank, to attend to this. I was saying that there are aspects of this in other parts of India which call for urgently for this particular measure. The House may have heard of what is known as the interlocking finance. There is a triangular game between the Bank, an Insurance company and an enterprising party, there are unwholesome dealings assigning away all these institutions, they are being hawked round in market and the money of one institution is used for window dressing and for various other purposes in another institution until either a mug is found to buy it over at the end at an inflated price or the thing collapses. The sort of game is going on and we have to stop it. The particular aspect of it affecting insurance is in the Insurance Bill which too unfortunately has been hung up and it is necessary for this House to take this Bill without delay.

Then, Sir, take the aspect of tax evasion. There is an enormous amount of tax evasion going on. I am afraid the Finance Department does not know the whole story. If they knew it, I am sure they would take action on it. Now, Sir, that some of us consider ourselves as watch dogs of this Government for finance purposes, I am sure it will be our duty and obligation to bring to the Finance Department the methods of tax evasion. What are the methods of tax evasion? Let me give a case for the advantage of some of my Honourable friends here. With regard to branches, a Bank suddenly opens a branch in an Indian State a deposit is put in the third name may be the name of a cook of the particular man. That deposit is put there and against this deposit and on the joint signature of the two parties, a loan is raised in British India. To the income-tax people the party says that he is in debt, he has incurred a loan and he has to pay interest charges and he therefore gets deduction from his tax to the extent of the interest he had to pay to the Bank whereas really speaking it is his own money. Such *benami* bogus transactions are taking place in obscure branches that so many Banks have raised, particularly in recent times, and particularly in some of the Indian States. Sir, the question of branches is one which has appeared before this House. Many years ago, when Banks were not expanding their branches, it was thought necessary to have a special Act for the Imperial Bank and to give them special concessions and special considerations and subsidies in order that something like 340 branches might be opened in this country. From that time we have progressed a good deal. The Imperial Bank, I understand, in recent times is actually reducing the number of branches. It has therefore knocked the bottom out of the claim for special privileges and the special Act which it has and I trust that when the time comes or in this Banking Bill itself, the special law which the Imperial Bank has got will be repealed and the Imperial Bank like any other institutions will be placed in the general and common law of this country. Whereas it was necessary for Government at one time to subsidise and to encourage the expansion of branch banking, it is now the other way. I have every sympathy with the type of small banks which my Honourable friend referred to. In fact, in the minority report, I specifically indicated that the more desirable type of growth of banking in this country would be the district bank in which the manager and the

directors would know the people all round, would know the industries in the surrounding, the people to assess, the credit to assess, the assets, the guarantees or securities offered and so on and it is such Banks that ought to be linked up with other Banks for outside purposes and that would be a very healthy growth. Instead of which we have adopted unfortunately the wrong type, namely that a Bank at a very large centre opens branches, hundreds of them, it takes Managers who may be B Com 's or something like that, and the Manager is sent down to the place to which he is entirely new. He therefore proceeds with great caution, so great a caution indeed that even good parties who come to him for accommodation are denied this and everything is done by rule of thumb, everything is done by reference to head office. That, Sir, is very defective banking. Indeed, I have my bias for small Banks, but I think it will be much more healthy in this country instead of large octopuses who have hundreds of branches and which control them from the Centre. But it becomes absolutely intolerable position that instead of confining their activities to their own surroundings and districts and to the people whom they know, the industries and enterprises which are familiar to them, the small Banks venture on the wrong path, namely on multiple branches, and the type of figures which the Honourable the Finance Secretary read out to us make it quite clear that this is an intolerable position. It is an intolerable position, it is not only against the interest of the shareholders of the particular institution, of the depositors, of the public concern but also of the human material which is engaged in these institutions. What, may I ask, will happen at the first breath of deflation which starts in this country? Some of these, not only small Banks, but I fear some of the so called large ones might come down like a house of cards if sufficient precaution is not taken. I want all the precautions which the Government are taking to be used wisely. Sir, considerable apprehension was expressed in this House that the Reserve Bank will not use the powers given in a reasonable manner. I would appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to tell such sections of this House as are feeling this apprehension that Government will month by month depute one of their officers to see that the Reserve Bank does not abuse these powers. Personally I have no apprehension that they will be unreasonable, but it is good to take away the fears even when wrongly aroused. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend has distressed himself quite unnecessarily. I feel that these powers are essential, they were envisaged in the two Bills which were published, there is a whole strength of public opinion behind these powers and most of the opinions which have been received are in favour of giving these powers, though I know some of the opinions received by Government on this Bill are adverse to giving these powers. But the manner in which the power should be used, the guarantees to the public that these powers shall not be abused and the general position of the Reserve Bank, the great unpopularity of the Reserve Bank in certain sections and how to put an end to it, these are some of the issues which we shall doubtless take up in the Select Committee. I hope that in the light of what I am saying and in the interest of the small Banks themselves my Honourable friend Mr Sanyal will not press his amendment but permit this legislation to be carried through.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadan) Sir, I rise to say a few words regarding the injurious effect that this Bill is likely to have on the Banks in the backward provinces like Assam, to which a generous reference was made by my Honourable friend Mr Sanyal. During the last two days we have given our loyal support to a series of emergent measures which in other circumstances we would have no hesitation in summarily rejecting. The reason we supported them, is that not only we considered them to be emergent but also because we have unbounded confidence in the Interim Government. We are confident that these wide powers which have been given to them will be not only not abused by them but they will see that they are not abused by their officers. Sir, I confess that at times I had shuddered to think what the result would be if for unfortunate reason—God forbid—this Interim Government were to resign and what our fate would be if these powers were to be exercised by the Honourable Members sitting behind the Treasury.

[Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhury]

Benchers and their subordinates But the increasing unanimity and friendliness which the two major parties in this House have been showing now gives us hope that such a contingency will never arise But turning to this particular Bill I would say that it does not stand on the same footing as the Bills that we discussed in the last two days There is nothing of a frightful emergency so far as this Bill is concerned, and I think it would be prudent to consider this Bill in Select Committee, particularly with regard to three points: (i) whether it would not be advisable in the circumstances prevailing in some provinces like Assam and Orissa, to exempt them from the operation of this measure, (ii) in view of the categorical statements made by my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar on the corruption in regard to capital issues by the Reserve Bank if it would not be advisable to adopt a provision like the one of which notice has been given by my Honourable friend Mr Ishaq Seth that there should be provision for an appeal against a decision of the Reserve Bank of India to the Government of India, and (iii) whether it would not be advisable for us to lay down means of punishing a breach of the provisions of this measure, that is to say whether it should be treated as an offence to be tried by a Criminal Court or dealt with by the administrative machinery. These are chiefly the points which it would have been better to discuss in Select Committee

Now, Sir, turning to the province of Assam I am ashamed to say that in our province we have less than a dozen banks. If this Bill had been brought before there might have been some justification for it, if it were brought say a couple of years ago we might have been saved from inundation of branches of banks from other provinces At the present moment the province is developing its own banking business and to cut short that progress at once by restrictive legislation of this nature is very unfortunate Sir, the Government of India have forcibly deprived the people of our province of the just price of their agricultural produce by putting them down at a rate which would not be more than Rs 4/8 per maund of paddy, but in spite of that our people are getting some money in their hands now, and they think it would be advisable for them to invest their money in banks of which the directors are known to them personally, instead of investing in branches of banks which have their head offices elsewhere but take the deposits from our province and invest them in other provinces As the banking business is now developing in the province, if this restrictive measure is adopted now the whole enterprise of the province will be stifled. It is urged today, as it has been urged before that we are not absolutely debarred from opening branches and that the Reserve Bank will allow us to open branches wherever wanted But our experience of doings of the Reserve Bank has been very bitter Whenever any bank had applied for an increase of their capital the matter has been referred to the Reserve Bank, and under one pretext or another the Reserve Bank has constantly rejected such applications At the same time we have found that where the applicants themselves can come to Delhi or Bombay and make personal representations they can induce the authorities to grant their prayer, but banks which are content merely to send their applications meet with a refusal on some ground or the other Sometimes it is said that the position of the bank is unsatisfactory Quite so, the position of a bank cannot be satisfactory when you do not allow them to increase their capital Then it is said that there are so many branches of different banks in the district that no further increase of capital is necessary that is to say, in the interests of advanced provinces like Bombay or Bengal we are told that we must not open any more branches or increase the capital, so that our own banks may languish and the banks from other provinces may flourish That has generally been the fate of banks in our province There has been a shrewd suspicion in regard to this—a suspicion which has not been concealed—that for some months past the Government of India have been entirely in the hands of the capitalists, and it is in the interest of the capitalists that the last Banking Bill was introduced in this House and it is in the interest of the capitalists again that this Bill is being introduced now, so that the existing banks may flourish

and no new banks may raise their heads and compete with them. Sir, I will not take the time of the House by repeating the arguments which have been advanced by my Honourable friend Mr. Banyal and which I fully endorse. I will only say that even if this Bill is not referred to Select Committee we have got to support as it is and we shall support it, only I would do so with great alacrity and enthusiasm if the Finance Member will give me this assurance that so far as provinces like Assam and Orissa are concerned, he will give particular attention to their prayer for increase of capital issue and for opening branches. We are not ambitious enough to think of opening branches in a province like Bombay or the Punjab and compete with them, we only want to have the liberty to open branches in our own province so that we can interest our rural population in these banking concerns. Our villagers, as I said, will invest only in those banks of which the directors are personally known to them and in whom they have confidence, they cannot have confidence in banks of which they have heard little or nothing. If an assurance were forthcoming that we will be allowed to develop our business by opening new branches and increasing our capital issue I would support this Bill with much greater enthusiasm and if I may add gratitude to the Honourable Finance Member.

Mr. Tamsuddin Khan (Dacca cum Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural): Sir, one cannot but agree with the objects underlying this measure, but I regret to say that I entertain some very grave apprehensions about it. I shall not dilate on the general grounds of objection because my Honourable friend Mr. Banyal and several other speakers have already dealt with those objections. It has been admitted that so far as banking facilities are concerned, our country is as yet very undeveloped. There are vast areas in this big country

3 P. M. where there are no banking facilities whatsoever. That being so, it is apprehended that the drastic provisions of this measure will be of a reactionary character and that it may put a clog on the wheel of progress. But, as I have said, I will not dilate very much on the general grounds, but I shall very humbly draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member and also of this House to certain special circumstances.

It has been said that this is a very urgent measure, and therefore if should be passed into law here and now, but I think, Sir, that the present time is extremely inopportune for a measure like this. I refer to the disturbed condition of the country. Probably my point will not be clear to the Honourable Members unless I explain the situation in detail. On account of the unfortunate happenings of the last few months and which are still continuing, it cannot be gainsaid that there is an extraordinary communal tension prevailing in the country. On account of the recent Calcutta riots, Honourable Members probably know what has taken place there. The City has been divided into different parts and the two major communities have been segregated into different sections of the City. It is common knowledge that so far as this banking business is concerned, one community is very backward and another community has advanced a good deal. Now take for example the portion of the city of Calcutta occupied by the community which has not been able to develop banks. What has happened? I know from my own personal knowledge that branches of banks have automatically stopped there or they have been removed because they could not simply function. I do not blame them, they could not function in areas alien to them owing to the prevailing circumstances. Therefore, for a time there were no banking facilities whatsoever in vast areas of Calcutta. What happened in those circumstances was that certain other banks run by the community which preponderates in that area—I should not say preponderates because that is the community which now exclusively lives in that area—have opened or are trying to open branches of banks there. Now, if you pass this Bill into law it will be impossible to take speedy action of this character, and thus a few banks that are owned by that particular community will not be in a position to take quick action in opening banks. That is not only true about the City of Calcutta. Take other parts of the country. Wherever there is this tension, there is a sort of ostracism between the two communities, there is an economic boycott of each. Sir, if you will excuse me citing one or two examples I might tell you that in

[*Mr. Tannuzuddin Khan*]

a particular case a homeopathy Doctor practising in the mofussil ordered for certain medicines from Calcutta soon after the riots. He was told in reply that these medicines were not in stock, but a few words in that letter were scored but they could still be read. The line which was scored out read like this: 'The medicines are not in stock, but because you belong to a particular community you could not be supplied even if they were available.' That is the relationship. I do not blame any particular community, that has been the tendency in the whole country.

Take the mofussil areas of those provinces where this tension exists. I refer to the district of Mymensingh. Of course it is happily free from extensive riots, but there is a good deal of tension there also. It is, as you know, Sir, the largest district in the whole of India, and it is larger in population than the province of Sind. There both in the town of Mymensingh as well as in the mofussil you will find banks only run by a particular community, with one or two exceptions. Now, if on account of tension increasing there, or on account of the tension that now exists, those banking concerns are compelled to take away their branches from the town of Mymensingh or the district of Mymensingh, what will happen? There will be no facilities whatsoever for the people of Mymensingh so far as banking goes.

Khan Abdul Ghami Khan (North-West Frontier Province General) No facilities for rioting.

Mr. Tannuzuddin Khan: I do not know what my Honourable friend means by that but he seems to gloat over certain things which he does not know. It is not a thing to gloat over. It is an unfortunate happening, it is an unfortunate position and every one is desirous of seeing it end as soon as possible we shall not solve this communal problem by shelving it and by simply hiding our head in the sand ostrichlike and ignore the danger around. We shall have to take the bull by the horn and tackle the problem courageously. That is how you have to do it. If in this House there is a particular community that is at a disadvantage in any respect, it should be the bounden duty of the members belonging to the other community to see to the difficulties of that particular community and it is in that spirit that I am bringing this matter before this House.

Sir, my entire contention is that there is no such urgency about this matter. I fully agree that there are abuses and devices must be found out to put a stop to these, but if you rush through a measure like this just at present I am afraid that the remedy will be worse than the disease. That is my contention. We have been allowing these banks to grow uninterrupted for such a long time, and a good deal of abuse has cropped up. My Honourable friend the Finance Secretary has given some very drastic examples of these abuses. I agree those are very bad examples, but so far as those banks at fault are concerned, this measure is not going to cure what has already happened. I think measures should be devised so that these banks who are guilty of these delinquencies may be brought to book but this measure is not going to do anything like that. It is going to put a check on the opening of new branches and let us see how that is going to be done. If you look at the provisions of clause 3 you will find

"(3) No banking company shall open a new branch without obtaining prior permission in writing from the Reserve Bank."

In sub-clause (2) it is provided

"The Reserve Bank may before giving the permission" take into consideration its financial condition and history,

Those things are described in sub-clause (2). Of course they have to take into consideration those things but in doing so facilities will have to be denied to banks which are very very necessary under the present emergent circumstances. If you look to sub-clause 3 there is another unnecessary provision. You giving this power to the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank in order to carry out this function will have naturally to examine the account and other books of the banks concerned but so far as that examination of books is concerned you are providing that those books must be examined with the previous approval of the

Central Government. What amount of time will be lost in all this? The Reserve Bank is given the power to give permission to banks. In the ordinary course of things they will have to examine the books of the applying banks. Therefore what is the object in providing that the Reserve Bank must take the previous approval of the Central Government in order to be able to examine the account books of the applying banks? I do not see any reason for this.

My whole objection is that although this is a necessary measure, the present time is extremely inopportune for it. We have waited long. The heavens will not fall if we wait for a short time more.

Again my honourable friend, Mr. Sanyal, has given notice of an amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. From his speech I understand that he is opposed to the Bill altogether, but thinking that outright opposition will be ineffective, he has taken the middle course, namely, to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: On a point of order, that is not the reason . . .

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. Fazluruddin Khan: But reference to a Select Committee to my mind appears to be redundant. From the Statement of Objects and Reasons you will see that this Bill is nothing but clause 18(6) of the Banking Companies Bill. That Bill has already been referred to a Select Committee and the provisions of this Bill are nothing but clause 18 (6) of that Bill. Therefore, it has already gone to a Select Committee. There is no meaning in sending this measure to a second Select Committee. I do not know if there is any flaw in my reading. If there is any, I hope, that will be explained by the Honourable the Finance Member. But I appeal to him that he should consider the matter very seriously. I do not think that any great harm will be done if we wait till the more comprehensive measure is taken into consideration by the Select Committee and is brought before this House. There is some evil, but I have already said that the remedy we are going to apply may be under the present circumstances worse than the disease.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: My honourable friend, Mr. Sanyal has moved a motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. In other words he agrees with the principle as embodied in this Bill, that is to say, that it is necessary to regulate and control the opening of branches by various banks.

Now, Sir, I think I must admire the ingenuity of my friend that instead of opposing this measure right out, he has suggested something which would, in fact, mean the death of this Bill. Now, Sir, I would like to examine the various objections that have been raised with regard to this measure.

Mr. Sanyal said that the Government were in great haste. To that my honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar has replied, that it has been otherwise; that the Government has been very dilatory in this regard. Therefore, Sir, I am inclined to agree with my friend, Mr. Subedar, and disagree with my honourable friend, Mr. Sanyal. After the facts and figures which were given by the Joint Secretary, it must be clear to the Members what the enormity of the harm is that has been done already and that is being done every day to the banking interests of this country.

There is one impression that the speeches have left on my mind, and it is suspicion about the manner in which these powers will be used. Sir, this suspicion has been built up, and justifiably so, on account of the past history of the Indian administration, and I do not blame the Honourable Members for harbouring this suspicion. But there is a change and I can assure my honourable friends that as long as I have anything to do with this Department which is under my charge, I shall see to the best of my ability that any powers that are taken by the Government or entrusted by the Government to any other authority, are not misused and are not abused. I think my friend, Mr. Sanyal, said that "Well, it will not be the Government that will be exercising these

[Mr Liaquat Ali Khan]

powers These powers will be given to the Reserve Bank and what if the Reserve Bank abuse these powers? Sir, I do not for a moment accept the proposition that the Reserve Bank would abuse these powers But if the Reserve Bank becomes so unreasonable and abuses these powers, then the remedy is in the hands of this Government and the Honourable Members of this House, and that remedy is to repeal this Act And therefore, Sir, I do not think that the Honourable Members should have that amount of suspicion about the use of these powers by any authority under the Government or by any authority to which certain powers are entrusted by them

There was another point which was raised by Mr Sanyal and I think my honourable friend, Mr Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri also referred to it as to how the penal clauses of this Bill will be given effect to If my honourable friends would look at the Criminal Procedure Code they would find that an offence has been defined as 'any act or omission made punishable by any law for the time being in force' Now this Bill provides an offence as defined under the Criminal Procedure Code, and then, Sir, in section 5, part 2, you will find that all offences under any other law—of course part 1 relates to offences under this law—shall be investigated and enquired into, tried and otherwise dealt with according to the same provisions, but subject to any enactment for the time being in force regarding the manner or place of investigating, inquiring into, trying or otherwise dealing with such offences Therefore these offences will be enquired into and dealt with under the Criminal Procedure Code So on that point, Sir, I do not see that there is any difficulty

Now, Sir, there was one point to which I should like to refer It was raised by my friend, Mr Manu Subedar, and emphasized by the Honourable Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri It was the question regarding the activities of the Capital Issue Department

Now, Sir, an allegation has been made that in the past some corrupt practices have taken place in this Department I am not aware of any such practice but if Honourable Members will bring any specific case to my notice I can assure them that I shall have it thoroughly examined

The other point was that with regard to the future, the Capital Issue Department should be more liberal, so far as the issue of capital was concerned and I think Mr Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri wanted to know with regard to his province of Assam in particular It is the desire of the Government that banking in this country should expand and should flourish It is the desire of this Government that banking business in this country is carried on on right lines and I can assure my friend that if any issue of capital will assist in that direction the people of Assam, the Department will not hesitate to help the people of Assam in developing their banking facilities

I think there is one misconception about this Bill which is before the House Honourable Members who have criticised it seem to be under the impression that this Bill is intended to prevent the expansion of banking business It is nothing of the kind Surely Honourable Members would agree with me that the expansion of banking business should be done on right lines and in the interest of the people of this country Now, the Reserve Bank is to make enquiries with regard to certain matters, after which it has to decide whether the opening of a branch should be allowed or not I would refer my Honourable friends to clause 3, part 2 of the Bill and I want to ask them whether there is anything in this which is really objectionable or which would prevent or stop further expansion of banking business I am sure Honourable Members would agree with me that it is desirable that before new branches are opened certain enquiries should be made and it should be made certain that the opening of branches would be in the interest of banking business and the depositors What is it that the Reserve Bank will have to enquire into? The clause says that before giving the permission referred to in sub-section (1) to any banking company the Reserve Bank will take into consideration firstly, its financial condition and history Is it contended that the financial condition and history of a bank

should not be taken into consideration before it is allowed to open new branches? Secondly, the general character of its management. Surely no Honourable Member would desire that the management of a bank should be objectionable or that its past management should not be gone into thoroughly before it is allowed to open new branches and get new customers for its banking business. The third thing is, adequacy of its capital structure. Here again, as the Joint Secretary pointed out, some banks with a subscribed capital of Rs. 80,000 or 40,000 open as many as 50 to 60 branches. Surely it is necessary before you allow a bank to go on opening branches to find out, what is its subscribed capital and authorised capital and what are the earning prospects. The Joint Secretary has pointed out how some of these banks have paid the depositors their interest on their deposits and what has been the earning capacity and that in fact they have been living on the capital. Lastly, the Reserve Bank will examine the public interest to be served by the branch. Surely it is necessary to see that any branch of a bank which is opened is for the good of the people and it is in public interest. Now, Sir, there is nothing in this which really would do harm to any bank in any way, which really wanted to see that its transactions were conducted in the interest of the people and in the interest of the banking business of the land.

The immediate need for this legislation has been pointed out by me in my earlier speech and later on by the Joint Secretary. The conditions are getting worse every day. I am told that so far no action has been taken and therefore why not wait for another year before you take any action? That, Mr. President, is a very weak argument, if I may be permitted to say so. If the Government has not done a right thing in the past, does not this House want the Government to do the right thing now or do they want the present Government to follow in the footsteps of the past Government? I believe that if a thing is desirable, if a thing is in the interest of the country and its people, no time should be lost before giving effect to it.

My Honourable friend Mr. Tamizuddin Khan has expressed certain misgivings on account of the present deplorable condition existing in the country. I have no doubt that when the Reserve Bank will examine the question of opening new branches it will certainly take that into consideration and his point would be covered by the last condition that is laid down here. "The Bank will see that the opening of a branch will serve public interest" and therefore I appreciate his misgivings but I have no doubt that the Reserve Bank, when examining this question cannot altogether ignore the conditions that are prevailing in the country or might prevail hereafter. Whenever you plan anything which is economical, you have got to take into consideration not only the financial aspect of it, but you have to take into consideration every aspect of the matter and I personally feel that the Reserve Bank will keep in view this fundamental principle that the object of this measure is not to restrict banking facilities but to regulate banking facilities in the interest of the banking business and the depositors and the people generally. I think if the Bank will have in view that fundamental objective, the apprehensions that have been expressed by my Honourable friend will be found not to be quite correct.

Sir, I think I have tried to meet every point that was raised and all that I would request this House to do is to pass this legislation now, if they want that further mischief should be stopped. Sir, the accumulated effect of all that has happened in the past is not in the best interests of sound banking and we must put our banking on a sound basis as soon as possible. This Bill deals with only one aspect of the problem. When we have examined and passed through this House the Banking Companies Bill, I hope after that the banking business in India will be placed on a very sound footing.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In view of the assurance given by the Honourable Finance Member, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment. The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay European): Before you put the question, Sir, may I ask the Honourable Finance Member whether he will make available to the members of the Select Committee copies of this debate?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend wants that copies of this debate should be supplied to the members of the Select Committee on the Banking Companies Bill. We will do our best to supply these copies—I think with your permission if your department will do it. The Select Committee on the Banking Companies Bill meets on the 21st instant, and so I do not know whether it is possible.

Mr. Leslie Gwill: I understand that proofs can be obtained from the printers, although the proofs will be rough, they can be obtained.

Mr. President: The best efforts will be made, that is all that can be said just now, it will all depend on the time the press takes for that purpose.

The question is

"That the Bill to restrict the opening and removal of branches by banking companies be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES BILL

Mr. President: Pandit Balkrishna Sharma was in possession of the House. The subject before the House now is the motion for reference to Select Committee of the Industrial Disputes Bill. Pandit Balkrishna Sharma.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban). He is not well. No.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association Indian Commerce). Sir, the main object of this Bill is the establishment of peaceful conditions in the industries of the country and to achieve that object one should see that it is not in any way harmful to the interests of both employers and employees and also of the consumers. The main idea behind this Bill is to establish conciliation machinery by appointing conciliation officers, conciliation boards and industrial tribunals. My friend Mr. Joshi the other day said that there should not be any compulsory arbitration, as he was afraid that he may not find any arbitrator who may be impartial. I agree with him that it could be difficult to find arbitrators who have no bias one way or the other. Rather the bias today is on the side of labour and not on the side of industrialists, and that bias rather would harm the interests of the industrialists as against those of labour, but as we cannot get arbitrators who are impartial, it may not be said that the principle of arbitration is wrong and we may not have arbitrators. As the country is situated today, I feel that if there is any need of arbitration proceedings, it is today. We know that due to the war situation the last few years have strengthened both capital and labour. If capital and labour are allowed to fight the result would be unchecked strikes and lockouts. Capacity on both sides has grown so much that if there are going to be strikes in this country and if there are going to be lockouts also they would not be over within a month or two, but they may last for six months or more and we have just to consider whether this country can afford those strikes. If we cannot afford those strikes, it must be seen to it by the government of the day that the country as a whole is not harmed. We know what the strikes in the thirties in Bombay did. The strikes in the thirties did great harm to Bombay industry and to Bombay labour. The situation became so bad that we know today that labour wages which were the highest in India in Bombay are much lower than they used to be and the wages

that were about 15 per cent higher in Bombay than in Ahmedabad are now today 10 per cent lower. If you look at it from the position of labour during war time we know that Bombay labour used to get much less not only in wages but in the dearness allowances also. It has cost Bombay labour 15 crores of rupees. Why so? Because a particular labour union will not ask for a rise in wages or higher dearness allowances for its own benefits. The situation in the country today, as I have stated, is such that we cannot afford to have any strikes, and although we may not have arbitrators as independent as we could wish and it is impossible to find a man without bias one way or the other it is today that we must have certain clauses in the Bill which would lay down arbitration not only for public utility concerns but for all industry.

India is a backward country, the industrial production is very low, and if even that low production is not to be harmed, it is necessary in the interests of the consumers and in the interests of labour and in the interests of the industries that, so long as we are not out of the conditions generated by the war, we must have compulsory arbitration, not only for public utility concerns but for all industries. I hope that in the Select Committee we may be able to see that at least for the time being we may have for some years to come compulsory arbitration for all industries and not only for public utility concerns.

The other factor in the Bill is that for industries other than public utilities there is no notice required for striking or for declaring a lockout. If that is so, how is the Government to come to know, before labour goes on strike or the employer begins a lockout, whether there is a dispute and this dispute should be sent over to conciliation. It would only happen after a strike or lockout has been declared. After some harm has been done Government will step in and ask both employers and employees to stop the strike or the lockout. That is why it is absolutely necessary, as has been realised by the Bombay Government and so in their Bombay Bill there is always some kind of notice which has to be given by both sides so that the industry may not involve itself all of a sudden in a big dispute and a big strike which it will be difficult afterwards to meet.

In this Bill there are several stages of conciliation. I agree with my friend Mr. Joshi that in certain cases there is no time limit as to when these conciliation proceedings should end. There ought to be some time limit and that too not a long one in which these proceedings should end. The procedure in this Bill is a very long procedure. First we are talking of conciliation officers. Then there will be boards of conciliation, courts of inquiry and industrial tribunals. The practical experience of the industry is that conciliation officers have not been able to help much in major disputes or proceedings before them. They have many times recorded that the dispute cannot be settled. If there are going to be conciliation boards there is no necessity for there being conciliation officers. No importance has been given in this Bill to the work of the conciliation officers. Wherever we refer, we refer to Boards of Conciliation. Thus I feel that the Government also realises that conciliation officers cannot do much and what it is suggested that there should be works committees where many of the disputes may be settled, it would be well to have a small machinery and remove the conciliation officers' process. If the Boards of Conciliation are also given the powers of courts of inquiry, we can remove that clause also and the Boards of Conciliation may be able to make a report to Government and the Government may appoint if necessary industrial tribunals. In this way, we may be able to reduce a lot of waste of time and we may be able to state that within a certain definite period the decision of the boards as well as the industrial courts may be made available, so that this defect in the Bill may be removed.

Regarding the powers of the industrial tribunals the Government has put in in clause 15 that they will accept the decision of the tribunal wholly or in part. If you appoint high eminent judges to decide the disputes, I cannot understand why the Government desires that they may ask the industry to implement the decision wholly or in part. I feel that it is possible that the Government may also find itself in difficulties. Government owns so many industries. They

[Mr. Vedilal Lallubhai.]

may add that the financial liabilities are so huge that they cannot be fulfilled. It is that is so, it is wrong that the Government which appoints the industrial courts should take power in their own hands to implement those recommendations.

Further it is stated in the Bill that once the conciliation proceedings start the Government will have power to ask both employers and employees to stop the strike or the lockout. It will not be correct to take those powers in the midst of a strike or a lockout. It is therefore necessary that the Government ought to decide just at the beginning of a dispute, when a notice has been given as to whether it is necessary. Is the dispute so big or the harm so great that no strike or lockout should be there? This position should be decided by the Government in the beginning of the dispute and not after the dispute has lasted for a month or two because in no country of the world can we find a government which has no bias. Governments are bound to have bias. Today there may be a bias on the side of industry. As soon as the Government finds that the industry is weakening and the strikes are succeeding then that government would immediately step in and say 'stop the strike, it is not worth while going on with the strike'. Tomorrow in a government with labour bias if labour may be weakening in that case it will be said 'no more strike or lockout. We are interfering'. In the present special circumstances of the country today when we have very few industries, when we are a backward country, when we are about to establish new industries and when industrial problems are in hand it is better that we must have compulsory arbitration for all industries and that there should be no powers to interfere later on but Government ought to interfere in any dispute by appointing conciliation boards or industrial tribunals just at the beginning of the dispute. There is no clause in the Bill which makes it obligatory on the employer or the employee to inform the Government as to there being a dispute amongst them. I feel that through some inadvertence a clause in this respect may have been left out. Unless the Government comes to know about a dispute, it is impossible for them to weigh the matter in right time and so a clause to this effect is necessary.

Then, Sir, with regard to the scope of the Bill, may I refer to clause 2 (k) where an 'industrial dispute' means any dispute or difference between employers and employees. I cannot envisage any dispute between the employers and employers unless it be a dispute regarding patent rights or trade marks. I see no necessity of these words being there in the Bill because if an employer has a dispute with any other employer over patent rights or trade marks, the law of the land is there to safeguard their interests.

Now, I come to the Works Committee. My Honourable friend Mrs. Maniben Kara said that the right of the workers to collective bargaining has been taken away. The Works Committees affect both the employers and the employees in different matters. The consensus of opinion amongst the employers also is that this Works Committee may not serve the purpose for which it is intended and so it ought not to be obligatory. But if Works Committees are found to be necessary both by employers and the employees of a particular establishment, they may be formed and so they should not be made compulsory in the Bill. Sir, the results of these Works Committees in various countries have not been satisfactory. They have been good in certain circumstances and they have been bad in other circumstances. It all depends upon the ideology of both the employer and the employee. If the ideology of a trade union is just to create trouble, these Works Committees might be a source of a great deal of nuisance, and in that case it would be better to keep this clause as permissive and not obligatory.

Regarding the penalty clauses, it has been said that the employees are considered as thieves and should be put into the prison. But if my Honourable friend reads the clauses properly, she will find that it applies to both the employer and the employee. It is common knowledge that no employer would like to be jailed for any offence whatsoever, but, after all, if an offence is committed by either party, the law must provide penalties. If there are going to be

penalties, they ought to be imposed on both sides. I am glad to find that the penalties are equitably distributed in this Bill. It has been said that if an employee does not want to do the work, this Bill will force him to do the work. Sir, the industry does not belong either to the industrialist or to the employees. It belongs to the whole society or to the whole country. It produces goods not for one community or for the employers or the employees only, but it produces them for all who are the sons of the land they live in. And the country has a right to see that the production is not unnecessarily disturbed as a result of these strikes. We know that during the last year there have been sporadic strikes all over the country and we have lost 25 per cent of our production. Half of this has been due to the 8-hour-day, which has nothing to do with the strikes, but the loss of the other half is due to workers giving up their jobs at random and coming when they want and going when they want, with the result that there is today a greater famine of cloth than it was before. That is why I support this Bill and I feel that in the present circumstances of the country it is a Bill that must be supported by all concerned.

Hon. Lt.-Commander Aftab Ali (Nominated Non-Official) Mr. President, Sir, I regret that although I am rising to speak for the first time in this Assembly. I find myself compelled to oppose the Bill moved by the Honourable the Member for Labour. My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi has moved an amendment for the circulation of the Bill. While I am not opposing that amendment, I must frankly admit that I cannot myself agree with his proposal for circulation because I am totally and wholly opposed to a legislation which means nothing else but to take away from the workers the right to strike. I know today the Government consists of the leaders of our main political parties and it is difficult to attack it. There was a time when rightly or wrongly the Government could be attacked and one could also obtain headlines in the press. That state of affairs no longer exists and today I rise under the disadvantage that the Government of the day is occupied by the leading political figures of our main political parties. We have in the Leader of the House one of our ex-President, I mean, that of the All-India Trade Union Congress. I also remember that only a few days ago the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan said that he and his colleagues have entered this Government with only one mission, namely, to help the poor, so I am still hoping that this Bill will be withdrawn.

It will be said Sir, that this Bill only intends to regulate the use of strikes by the trade unions and the working classes. But I will presently show that all this may apply in theory only in practice this Bill does take away the right to strike. I maintain Sir, that this Bill does take away the right to strike and this is absolutely undemocratic. If this Government want to take away that right by force, they may do so, but no Government can successfully take away the rights of the workers unless it either becomes a Fascist Government or a Communist Government. Then Sir no democratic Government—if it wants to remain democratic—can take away the right to strike. I know that in this unfortunate country of ours there are people who do not like trade unions. Whether my Honourable friends like trade unions or not I am afraid that until this country becomes fully Fascist or fully Communist, we have got to have

Unions and so long as we have trade unions, the right to strike must remain there. Trade unions are not friendly societies or benevolent Associations or merely petition making bodies. Certainly when unions find that all efforts for settlement have failed and action has become necessary, I do not see any reason why these Unions should not take action to strike.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

I have also an offer to make. If it is seriously argued that this Bill does not take away the right to strike, will the Honourable Member for Labour agree to refer this Bill to the International Labour Office for their opinion. I, for one, am giving my word, that if the International Labour Office which consists in its governing body representatives of government, representatives of employers and representatives of workers if they tell that this Bill in its present

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total does not take away the right to strike, then I am prepared to accept the Bill and withdraw my opposition to it. Until that is done, no amount of whitewashing, no amount of arguing will convince me that this Bill does not take away the right to strike possessed by the trade unions. Sir, I belong to a group of trade unions which normally do not believe in going on strikes. I will prove presently that we have been able to obtain 400 per cent increment for Indian seamen without going on any strike. Only a few days ago, we have been able to conclude an agreement with two of our biggest inland Steamship companies covering over 20,000 people, an increment of an average of 40 per cent per head per month and involving a total increase of about 80 lakhs for them. Now Sir, I maintain that the unions with which I am connected would not be able to negotiate any agreement if they had not had that bargaining power, namely the power to strike, at their disposal. (Interruption) Yes, I refer to the agreement we have made with Messrs R S N & Co and I G N & Co and I think my Honourable friend was once connected with one of these companies. That agreement, as I have just now said covers over 20,000 workers and involves an increase of about 80 lakhs of rupees for a period of twelve months. This agreement took exactly eleven hours to conclude although the representatives of Messrs R S N Co and I G N Co only a year before refused to talk about any increase, even by a pice. The gentlemen who would not agree to discuss any increment thanks to their generosity, have now seen the wisdom of concluding an agreement with my organisation involving such a heavy expenditure for such a large number of workers. Now, Sir, my purpose in raising this point is this. While I am one of those trade unionists who think that it is wrong to go on strike and then fail but that does not mean that we can give up the right to strike, the only basis, the only weapon and the only bargaining power on which trade unions live and exist. If you take away that power, then our trade unions will become absolutely impotent and useless. Sir, we, of the labour movement, may be broken, in fact, we have been broken quite a few times in the past. I would not say that we might not be broken again, we may be broken, but we shall never be bended. Either we live as trade unions or we do not exist at all. So long as we live as free trade unions, we shall under no circumstances surrender our right to strike, whether you legislate or do not legislate. Sir the 1929 Act was passed by the previous Government with the same hope of preventing strikes. But Sir, we have already heard from my Honourable friend Mr Joshi that that Act could not be applied and that Act became a dead letter. Now Sir another new Act is being brought forward. If this Act is passed in its present form, you take it from me, that you will never be able to enforce it. You think that you will get away by making strikes illegal and giving absolute freedom to capitalists to exploit the workers. But you are terribly mistaken. You will never get away with anything like that. Therefore if it is your intention to secure industrial peace this is not the method to secure it. I assure you that I am no less enthusiastic about industrial peace. Quite recently we have formed a joint Maritime Board with the shipowners, consisting of British, Dutch and Indian shipowners in Calcutta and I will read out the Preamble of that Board.

"With a view to securing closer cooperation and providing a joint negotiating machinery between the British, Indian and other shipowners and Indian seafarers there shall be constituted a board known as the Calcutta Maritime Board for the purpose of—

- (a) prevention and adjustment of differences between shipowners and seafarers,
- (b) establishment, revision and maintenance of a standard rate of wages and approved conditions of service" etc.

It will be clearly seen that in the unions with which I am connected we are ourselves working to see that peace in the industry is not easily disturbed. But if you really want to have industrial peace in the country, then allow me to say that you are pursuing a wrong method a method which, I maintain, will only produce more unrest. I am not in favour of strikes if they can be avoided; I am not even in favour of trade unions after a certain stage. Nationalise the entire resources of the country, do away with all types of profiteering and the

exploitation of man by man, create a society in which there shall be no necessity for maintaining trade unions and carry on a day to day struggle, and I for one, am prepared to liquidate our trade unions without the slightest hesitation. But what do you propose and what is the position in the country today? Have you any minimum law? Have you any law by which you can prevent any employer from paying whatever he likes to pay? I am told that it is coming. When it comes, you can bring in a Bill, but why before? Have you any law by which you can prevent employers from victimising and otherwise exploiting their employees? You have no such laws. Then, have you any other social security law for workers in this country? No, you only say you are bringing them. Have you any law by which you can restrict profiteering? Much I remind you that even Hitler in Germany before suppressing the trade unions, had to come out with a legislation limiting dividends to five per cent. While you do not restrict profiteering, while you allow the capitalists to make any amount of money they like and take out whatever they like from the industry leaving the industry to its fate, you come out with a proposal to prohibit strikes. Why don't you be more honest and say you do not want trade unions? That is a position which I can understand better. If you say you want trade unions then you cannot take away the right to strike which is the very essence on which any trade union can stand and grow. Sir, I am a seaman, I belong to no political party and therefore no one can say that I am raising my objection to the Bill from any political point of view. Frankly speaking, if this Bill simply aimed at bringing in some sort of restrictions against politicians who try to exploit workers or make them pawns in their political games, I for one would not have much to object. But you are not doing that. By making strikes impossible, by rendering trade unions powerless and impotent, you are encouraging or adding strength to those politicians who have been telling the workers that there is no salvation for them unless and until they take over the Government themselves. Sir, I belong to a school of thought in labour which believes in organising unions purely on economic lines reasoning with employers as far as possible and fighting them whenever it becomes necessary. And during the last twenty years that I have been connected with such organisations I have not gone on strike more than twice. I am not myself very much in favour of a strike, by going on strike the workers may win at one time and lose another time. And I have myself regretted many strikes when I saw that the strikes were undertaken without making the necessary preparations to win them. But at the same time I will never agree to any legislation which takes away the right to strike. A trade union will not be worth the name if it loses its bargaining power, namely the right to strike.

Sir, we all know that during the war years some of these legislative measures were adopted as war measures. The Honourable Member preceding me said that the Bombay workers had lost nearly 15 crores of rupees because a certain trade union did not demand any increase. That may be correct, but what is the remedy? Are you bringing in this piece of legislation for purely economic purposes or are you bringing it in for political purposes? If you are bringing it for political purposes you may take it from me that there too, you will fail—hopelessly. Take it from me, Sir that until and unless the differences between capital and labour are adjusted by negotiations and their mutual consent and until and unless capital and labour adopt a policy of 'live and let live', there can be no industrial peace. Sir, I do not know whether the word 'nonsense' is parliamentary or not; if it is, I will say that it is absolutely nonsense to suggest that there can be any industrial peace if there were no proper and strong trade unions. For industrial peace, proper and free trade unions are necessary. That is why I say that if by this legislation you propose to have industrial peace in the country, you are defeating your own object, because you are not ensuring industrial peace, you are only creating greater unrest because the workers will lose that sense of security which they have got now, namely, that once they can organise proper unions they can secure the justice due to them by negotiations as long as possible and by fighting when it becomes necessary. And you do not know what the consequences of that will be. You had your Government

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Servants Conduct Rules, but when the postal workers went on strike what did you do, and if they again go on strike what can you do?

An Honourable Member: Nothing

Hon. Lt.-Commander Aftab Ali: Therefore, if you really want industrial peace in this country so that the industry may develop and the country may grow, prosperous, for Heaven's sake, don't come forward with such legislation which will kill the trade unions. You have no idea that there are trade unions in this country, very big trade unions, which are no less interested in maintaining industrial peace than you are, but at the same time, none of these unions will be prepared to give up the very power which gives it the required strength. You are a Government and if we ask you to disband your army, you will never agree. You will naturally say if something happens, what shall we do. Similarly, Sir, we cannot remain trade unions unless we have that power, the power to strike, and that power we shall never surrender. You have talked of a month of imprisonment in this Bill—make it 'years' not 'months', and take it from me that we shall never surrender that right. The right to strike is ours and we shall have it.

Then, Sir, if there is any politics behind this legislation—I do not understand much of politics—I may tell you that you are again making a mistake. By taking away the trade unions' power and prohibiting strikes you are not only rendering them impotent, but you are also suppressing them, although I know you will not agree that you are suppressing them. Now, Sir, take my own case. I am not today worrying who is controlling the Government of Bengal. I am busy with my own organisation and I think that as a seaman, my business is to help seamen and my other co-workers and I am trying to help them to the best of my ability. As I have said, Sir, I am not now worrying who is controlling the Government of Bengal, but, Sir, with the passing of this Bill, I will have to worry about that too so that this weapon is not used against me or my unions. You know and think that labour has no chance of coming into power in this country, and if you did, would you ever think of passing such a legislation? You would not have thought of that. I know, Sir, our number is not large unfortunately, but you are driving us to quarters that we have been trying to avoid so far. And I may tell you that if you do that, I don't think you will be the gainer at all.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is making his maiden speech and I did not like to interfere and wanted to give him as much latitude as possible, but for the information of the Honourable Member I must say that it is not permissible to repeat the same thing over and over again.

Hon. Lt.-Commander Aftab Ali: Thank you, Sir. If the intention in bringing forward this Bill is to use labour for the advantage of certain politicians, it is not new. It has happened before, it happened in 1942, and such attempts are bound to be made by such people to make use of labour for their purposes in future, too. Therefore, Sir, if my contention is right that this Bill has also a political motive behind it, then again, I say, it will defeat the purpose of the mover, as it will defeat the economic purpose. Instead of making strikes impossible, it would have been better for Government to come forward with a Bill for educating the workers. The Government could have come forward with a legislation which would tax the industry in order to start schools and other educational institutions for workers so that they might not become tools in the hands of the politicians. But Government are not willing to do that. The other day when my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, moved his Resolution for the nationalization of civil aviation, the Honourable the Home Member said that Government had not yet put their foot in the proper place and they might go into liquidation if it committed itself straight away to the policy of nationalization. But, Sir, how is it that the Government has come forward today with this Bill on which depends the whole future of our industrial progress? Today only a little while ago, the Honourable

Mr Liaquat Ali Khan said that Government have just come into power, and how is it that this Bill has now been brought forward? They all have said that they will do every thing with a view to help the people. But what is the hurry for this piece of legislation? Some Honourable Members say that they are bringing legislation for insurance and other social securities, for a minimum wage and other such things. Would it not be better to bring these measures first and then come up with a legislation like this? The whole idea behind this law is to stop the ever-growing trade union movement.

The unfortunate mistake that Nationalist China made is, I am afraid, going to be repeated in India. When China became a Republic, the capitalists of China thought that that was an opportunity for them to build up an industrial empire, ignoring the Chinese workers. I hope, Sir, that that Chinese mistake will not be repeated in India. There seems a tendency on the part of the body in power to do the same thing as was attempted in China. The Party ruling China—the Kowmintang has a Labour Department of its own and I have many Chinese friends connected with the Chinese labour movement. Almost all of them were appointed by the Chinese Government or the Party with the result that not only has industry been able to secure no progress in China, but the country has also been divided into two camps and a real civil war has now been going on there for years. I hope the seeds for such a civil war—not a civil war between ignorant workers and peasants but between the haves and have-nots are not going to be planted in India too! I for one would not like to have it. I want that the mistakes that China has made are not repeated in India and I would like our industrialist to give up the idea of building up any such industrial empire in India and ignoring labour altogether. So long as the Britishers were at the helm, the cry was 'let us get rid of them first and we will settle every thing else.' Now if the industrialists and capitalists of our country think that by putting out the Britishers they will take their place and deprive us altogether, that proposition is a mad one and it will never work. Therefore, Sir, without making myself unduly harsh due to my misfortune or good fortune that I became a seaman at a very early age of my life—at the age of 16—and which has made me perhaps ~~some~~ what bitter—I may tell my Honourable friends that I am also a man of peace. I am working for peace. I do not believe in forced transformation of the social order. I know that industry has a great part to play. But why does not industry recognise the fact that labour also has a great part to play. Once we agree that industry and labour have to be together and produce wealth then we shall make this country a fit place to live in—not a mere Hindustan, not a mere Pakistan but a real "Admistan", a place where human beings can live and live happily. The leaders of our industry and trade unions must accept this fact that for the future of this country they have got to recognise the existence of one another, and they have got to adopt a policy of live and let live. (Interruption) Sir, interruptions will not change me!

Mr Deputy President: Has the Honourable Member finished?

Hon. Lt.-Commander Aftab Ali: No, Sir. I was just waiting to see if there were further interruptions or not. I would like to appeal to the leaders of industry. I know they are also in this House in larger numbers than we poor people are. Let them profit by the Chinese mistake. I beg of all Honourable Members through you Sir to excuse me for my frankness. Sir, although, I am a Member of this House for nearly a year now, yet this is the first time I have stood up. Of course, I admit I have the obvious difficulty of not being a good speaker and that is why so far I have tried to go undetected but this Bill has forced my hands and I had to stand up and speak. Sir, we seamen do not understand diplomacy. We understand only simple things. When we see a spade, we call it a spade. When a wrong is being done we say it is wrong. When a right thing is being done, we say it is right. I sincerely feel that this Bill will defeat its very object. It is not going to establish peace. On the contrary, it is going to give us more unrest and more strikes. May be I am wrong, and I wish I am wrong. But I sincerely hold that this Bill as presented to the House is going to create more strikes and more unrest in the country.

[Lt.-Commander Aftab Ali.]

Therefore, I do appeal to the Honourable Member for Labour, as well as other members of the Government to withdraw this Bill and call a conference of representatives of employers and labour and let us discuss the whole thing because in many things we might agree for instance, the speaker who preceded me said that there should be provision for giving notice and although I believe in having the right to strike, still I consider it criminal to go on strike without due notice. It is equally wrong to create a strike for purposes other than those of the workers concerned.

There was a time in Bengal when there were quite a few jute strikes because two sections of our industrialists wanted those strikes. People who were interested in the jute prices going up, they unfortunately found some labour leaders.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-official) No labour leaders!

Hony. Lt.-Commander Aftab Ali Some of them were bribed and they brought about strikes with a view to either increase or bring down prices on behalf of speculators. Those things were criminal. Those so called labour leaders ought to have been caught and jailed.

Sir, I suggest that there are many things in this Bill with which we will be able to agree, because we also believe in conciliation and arbitration but not in compulsion. We do not know what the arbitrator will do. Conciliation we understand, we can negotiate and we can tell our workers what we can get. But this compulsion business we do not understand. As I said there are many things in the Bill with which we agree but if my friends think that today they have the power and they can do anything they like, it is of course up to them to do so. I will only say that the British Government also once thought that they were at all in all in this country and Sec 124A was the only way in which they could rule. The very fact that leaders of our political organisations are occupying the treasury benches today proves how utterly absurd it was on the part of the British Government to think that they could always rule by mere force. Similarly, I would hate to see our leaders making the same mistake which these foreigners did. Therefore, I would say again to the Honourable the Labour Member that there are many things in this Bill which can be discussed and agreed to.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has said that several times.

Hony. Lt.-Commander Aftab Ali I would say only once more. I would ask the Honourable Member to withdraw this Bill and then after a conference in the future I have suggested to bring forward a Bill which will be acceptable to all of us.

The Honourable Shri Jagdhan Ram (Labour Member) Mr Deputy President, I do not want to inflict any lengthy speech on the House at this late hour. As a matter of fact many of the points which have been raised in opposition to this motion have been met by those Honourable Members who supported this motion.

At the very outset I must express my appreciation of the attitude of the Honourable Mr Griffiths (who is not here at present) who rose to oppose the motion for reference to Select Committee but as soon as he came to learn that the date has been extended he readily withdrew his objection and supported the motion for reference to Select Committee.

When my Honourable friend Mr Joshi, who is no doubt a veteran trade unionist rose to move his amendment for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon, I was very anxiously listening to his speech. But I must admit that I was disappointed. Mr Joshi has grown old and so his ideas have become antiquated. All the arguments which he put forth in opposing the Bill were rather antiquated. I will not examine every point that has been urged by him but if I were to take only a few as examples, I may say that his objection to a number of industries and services to be counted as public utility services was rather beyond my understanding. As a matter, if anybody

was to raise the objection at this stage that railway transport, steam service, electricity and other things are not of public utility or that these are not public utility services, because they happen to be owned, possessed or run by private individuals, I for my part do not understand it. The utility of a service or an industry does not depend upon its ownership but upon its utility to the public, upon its catering capacity for the service and the utility to the community. Everybody in the House will agree with me that electricity is a public utility service, whether it is owned, possessed or run by a private individual or by a public corporation. That does not make any difference. Similarly, the railways and other things are public utility services. These are the points on which my friend Mr. Joshi laid great stress. I am not going to lay as much of stress on those points.

- The main point of this Bill is conciliation, voluntary and mutual if possible, and compulsory, if necessary. These are the two main features of this Bill. Mr. Joshi's objection was that it is not possible to find impartial arbitrators and rather it is not possible to find impartial governments.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is true.

The Honourable Mr. Jagjivan Ram: If it is true for the present, it is true for the future also. But I say, Sir, it is not true and it cannot be true. Government as representative of the community is impartial and whether you admit it or not, Government thinks that it is impartial. Similarly it is not impossible to get impartial persons. The Honourable Mr. Joshi said and my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai, who represents the employers, has been rather emphatic too, that persons are biased one way or the other. These are points which I do not think really have any weight. The main features of the Bill, as I said in my opening speech, are voluntary arbitration and conciliation if possible, and compulsory if necessary. Sir, Government as representative of the community has got to look to the interests of labour and to the interest of the consumer as well. Government cannot afford to be silent spectators when labour and capital are fighting among themselves to the detriment of the interest of the community and had it been the fact that when they fight among themselves, it is they and they alone who lose, of course Government would have considered whether they could afford to stand aside and let them fight among themselves. But when they see that the whole of the community suffers, the whole country suffers and the whole nation suffers, the government cannot afford to be a silent spectator of this struggle. And thus government can never admit and I on my part will never admit that there are persons and persons alone who can look after the interests of labour. My honourable friend who has just preceded me has been very emphatic that labour will rather break than bend. My friend may rest assured that from this side there will never be any effort either to bend labour or break it. I may assure my friend that labour will have every reasonable encouragement from the Government, but Government will also see that everybody gets a fair trial. (Interruption). I would request my friend to have patience and he will have everything relevant from me. So far they have been very emphatic in explaining to the labour their rights. We must also explain to them their obligations and their duties. I do not find here anything which need perturb our labour friends so much. Where is the political motive? I have not been able to read it in any of the clauses of the Bill, unless one chooses to import it from his own brain or from his own reading. Reading between the clauses of the Bill and reading between the provisions of the Bill, there is nothing to be found which can import any political motive into the provisions of this Bill.

My honourable friend, Miss Maniben Kara was very emphatic. I can understand her. She is for opposing the Bill right through, whether it is reasonable or whether it is unreasonable, whether it is desirable or undesirable. She sees everything black. I remember a couplet from the Ramayana—

Jakee rahee bhavana jaisee, Prabhu moorat dekhee tin taisee—

if she can see this Bill black, she will see everything black. I cannot help it, the government cannot help it, if she is determined to oppose this Bill, she

[Mr Jagjivan Ram.]

must take it from me that government is determined to see the Bill through I must assure my friends who claim to represent labour, who claim to speak on behalf of labour, that we also have got some experience of labour. They alone cannot claim it as a monopoly to see to the welfare of labour. We have also to see to the welfare of labour, and we have to see to the welfare of the community as well. Seeing to the welfare of labour will be seeing to the welfare of the community as a whole.

I do not want to examine every point and to reply to every objection that has been raised. Most of the points have been replied to by my honourable friends who have supported the motion, and at this late hour of the day I do not want to prolong my speech. If I were to examine every point, I have got very relevant and cogent reply to every objection that has been raised here. If any relevant points have been raised they may very well be considered in the Select Committee, and I shall have no objection in considering them there and in making the Bill as useful as possible for the purposes for which it is meant. With these words, Sir, I oppose the motions for circulation and appeal to all Honourable Members to accept my motion for referring it to Select Committee.

Mr. Deputy President: I will first put the amendment for circulation of Mr Ahmed Jaffer, and if that fails then I will put Mr Joshi's amendment which is for a longer time.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan): I do not think Mr Jaffer moved his motion for circulation.

Mr. Deputy President: Then there is Mr Joshi's amendment for circulation. Honourable Members should not walk when a motion is being put. I have been telling that this is the parliamentary practice, that when the Chair is on its legs, no member should remain on his legs, they should not walk even from one side to another, but sit down at once wherever they are.

I am informed by the Secretary that Mr Jaffer has moved his amendment. Then it has to be put to the House, whether it is accepted or not is not my

The question is

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th March, 1947."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is —

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st October, 1947."

To save the time of the House I would ask Honourable Members who really want to have a division, to rise in their seats so that we may know whether a division is necessary.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, if your ruling is that we should stand, we will stand, but I would like to bring to your notice that the object of asking for a division is two-fold: we want the names of the people who vote to be recorded either way. We want it to be recorded that those who are in favour should have their names recorded and those who are against should have their names recorded. That object is not served by asking us to stand, because I do not know whether even if you record two or three or four names, the names of the other members will not be recorded. I therefore feel that the real object of having a division will not be served by your asking us to stand. After all, if you take the parliamentary practice in England, there are divisions even when there are only two or three or four members in a house of 600. Why cannot there be a division here with, I do not know, how many who will support me? I expect a good support.

An Honourable Member: Four.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No, no, more. A division should be allowed.

Mr. Deputy President: It is absolutely clear that it is within the discretion of the Chair not to allow the time of the House to be wasted; this has been done several times by the late President, Sir Abdur Rahim, on many occasions.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I had protested against that practice then

Mr. Deputy President: I do not want to be harsh, because I am one of the members who sit on the floor and this right may have to be asserted, but if honourable members are very anxious that their names may be recorded at the expense of five minutes of the House, then I do not mind calling a division

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If you permit us to have a division on the next motion, I shall be content because that is a crucial motion

The motion was negatived

Mr. Deputy President: Now comes the motion for reference to Select Committee

Mr. Deputy President: I shall now put Mr S C Joshi's amendment

The question is

"(a) That the name of Mr P J Griffiths be added to the names of members of the Select Committee and the name of Mr A C Inskip be substituted for the name of Mr R C Morris

(b) That for the words and figures "7th November 1946", the words and figures "1st February, 1947" be substituted"

The motion was adopted

Mr. Deputy President: Now, I shall put Mr Siddiqi's amendment

The question is

"That the name of Miss Maniben Kara, be added to the names of members of the Select Committee"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: Now, the question is

"That the Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes, and for certain other purposes, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr N M Joshi, Mr S Guruswami, Mr A C Inskip, Mr P J Griffiths, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Prof N G Ranga, Sri T V Satakopachari, Shri D P Karmarkar, Mr Vadiyal Lallubhai, Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, Sjt B S Hiray, Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr Abdul Hamid Shah, Mr Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah, Mr S. C Joshi, Miss Mamben Kara and the Mover, with instructions to report by the 1st February, 1947, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

The Assembly divided

AYES—52

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi
Abd Hussain, Captain Syed
Adityan, Sri S T
Ayyangar, Sri M Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan
Chettiar, Sri T A Ramalingam
Chandhuri, Sreejot Rohini Kumar
Chundrigar, The Honourable Mr I I
Daga, Seth Sheodass
Dani, Mr G B
Gadgil, Sjt N V
Gangaraju, Sri V
Gole, Mr P B
Gounder, Sri V C Vellingri
Govind Das, Seth
Hummatnaji, Col Kumar Shri
Hiray, Sjt B S
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji
Jagannathdas, Sri
Jagjivan Ram, The Honourable Shri
Jhunjhunwala, Mr B P
Jinachandran, Sri M K.
Joshi, Mr S C
Killedar, Mr Mohammad M.

Lahiri Choudhury, Sriyut Dhirendra Kanta
Liaquat Ali Khan, The Honourable Mr
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagurathi
Masani, Mr M R.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit
Narayanamurthi, Sri N
Nehru, The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal
Oulsnam, Mr S H Y
Pai, Mr M P
Patel, The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai
Rahmat-ullah, Mr Muhammad
Rajagopalachari, The Honourable Sri C.
Ranga, Prof N G
Reddiar, Sri B Venkatasubba
Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal
Salvo, Mr P K
Satakopachari, Sri T V.
Sharma, Mr Krishna Chandra.
Sunha, Shri Satya Narayan
Spence, Sir George.
Sukhdev, Seth
Tamsuddin Khan, Mr
Vedial Lallubhai, Mr.
Verma, Mr B B
Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr Sir.
Vinchoorkar, Sardar N G

1688

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[14TH Nov 194

NOES-5

Aftab Ali, Hony Lt-Commander
Guruswami, Mr S
Joshi, Mr N M

Kara, Miss Maniben
Solanki, Dr. P. G.

The motion was adopted

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 16th November, 1944

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 15th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

Khawaja Nazimuddin, M L A (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions · Muhammadan Rural)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

DECISION OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT *RE* HIGHER PRICES FOR BENGAL CULTIVATOR

586. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the present Interim Government have decided that the Bengal cultivator shall not receive the higher prices which the world market is prepared to pay and the law of supply and demand may determine?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to jute prices. If so, the answer is in the negative. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention in this connection to the Press Communiqué issued on the 23rd October a copy of which has been laid on the table of the House.

Press Communiqué

EXPORT PRICES OF JUTE DECONTROLLED ENHANCEMENT OF EXPORT DUTY

The Government of India have decided to terminate the Jute Export Control Order, 1946 with immediate effect.

This Order, it will be recalled, was conceived as an anti-inflationary measure as also with the object of ensuring that supplies of packing material were made available at reasonable prices to all countries of the world for facilitating the movement of cereals.

The Provincial Governments concerned, however, did not take steps to continue the control over internal prices, with the result that jute prices in India have increased sharply while exports have been dislocated. In the long run controlled export prices of jute and jute manufactures cannot fail to influence the internal price level but this would involve a long process resulting in undesirable fluctuation of prices and dislocation of trade. The Government of India have, therefore, decided to withdraw the price control over exports.

At the same time, in order to reduce as far as possible the inflationary effects of uncontrolled export prices, the Government have decided to enhance the export duty on raw jute and jute goods. The high prices resulting from decontrol will benefit the growers of this commodity and a substantial part of the proceeds of the enhanced export duty will accrue to the principal producing provinces.

The Indian Tariff Act Amendment Ordinance, 1946, promulgating the new rates of duties has issued in a Gazette Extraordinary.

The Government of India intend to continue the quantitative control over exports of raw jute and jute goods so that exports of Indian jute may be equitably distributed among all countries of the world.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT;
New Delhi, October 23, 1946

ALLOWANCE FOR EXILED AFGHAN SARDARS IN INDIA

587. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state if he has had any correspondence in recent weeks with the four Afghan Sardars at present in exile in India?

(b) Have Government been in communication with the Afghan Government in connection with these exiled Sardars?

(c) Are these Sardars in India by arrangement with the Government of Afghanistan? If so, what are the terms?

(d) Who bears the expenses of these Sardars while in India?

(e) Is it a fact that these Sardars are compelled to live in India on a maintenance of Rs 80 a month?

(f) Is this amount sanctioned and paid by the Government of India or the Afghan Government?

(g) Do Government propose to consider the question of increasing the allowance of these Sardars?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the four Afghan Sardars mentioned in his question No 410, which I answered on November 12th. If so the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Their case has been referred to the Afghan Government.

(c) These Sardars were implicated in an abortive revolt in British Tribal Territory against the Government of Afghanistan in 1939. They surrendered to the Government of India, upon an assurance being given to them that they would not be returned to Afghanistan against their will.

(d) The Government of India.

(e) Three of these persons receive an allowance of Rs 80 per mensem each; the fourth receives an allowance of Rs 132 per mensem.

(f) By the Government of India.

(g) The allowances were originally fixed on the basis of the emoluments earned by and the status of these persons in Afghanistan and have since been approximately doubled. The question is under consideration. It may be mentioned that it is open to the Sardars to add to their income by their own efforts.

AFGHAN SARDARS IN INDIA

588. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state the cause of these four Afghan Sardars being in exile in India? Were the Government of India requested to give these men protection and refuge in India, and was their monthly allowance fixed by the Government of India?

(b) Have Government ever made a request to the Afghan Government to supplement this allowance of Rs 80 a month?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the question of advancing these Sardars one lakh of rupees, to enable them to do some business and thus enable them to live in a manner more in accordance with their status?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The information required by the Honourable Member is fully covered by my replies to his question on the same subject asked on the 12th November and today.

POLITICAL ADVISER TO THE CROWN REPRESENTATIVE

589. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state—

(a) who is at present the Political Adviser to the Crown Representative, and

(b) the position of the Honourable Member vis-à-vis the Political Adviser?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Sir Conrad Corfield.

(b) This was explained in my reply to Lala Deshbandhu Gupta's short-notice question on the 29th October 1946. The Political Department, of which the Political Adviser is the chief permanent official, is not part of or under the Government of India. It is directly under the Crown Representative.

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: May I know if the salary of this official is paid from the Indian exchequer or from the Indian States exchequer?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I presume it is paid from the Indian exchequer, but many things are paid from the Indian exchequer over which this House apparently has no authority

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that according to the Legislative Assembly Circular No. 71 of the 21st September 1946, he is supposed to be responsible for the Political Department in this House?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Who is responsible?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member for External Affairs

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not got that circular before me. I do not know exactly what it contains. But if the House will remember, my answer to the short notice question of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta was a long one, explaining what the Political Department was. The Political Department as such has nothing to do with the External Affairs Department. The political service is a common service, but the Political Department is entirely under the Crown Representative, and the Chief official of this Political Department is this gentleman I just mentioned, Sir Conrad Colling.

Seth Govind Das: What I mean is that according to this circular, the Honourable Member is considered to be responsible in this House at least for what he calls the Political Department?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member is perfectly right. I am responsible only in so far as somebody has to answer questions. I am responsible for answering questions relating to the Governor General Public, but Governor General Public is not under the Government of India or the Governor General in Council.

Seth Govind Das: May I ask, if he is consulted in other respects also besides answering questions, as far as this department is concerned, by the Governor General?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir, I am not consulted but occasionally we try to seek information.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that many questions regarding this Department have been disallowed by the Governor General?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: They do not reach me at all if they are disallowed.

DESIRABILITY OF INTRODUCING HINDUSTANI FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

590. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state

(a) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to introduce Hindustani in the conduct of business and proceedings of this House, and

(b) whether he is willing to assure this House that the business and proceedings of this Assembly will be conducted in Hindustani from the next session?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) The effect of rule 14 of the Indian Legislative Rules is to require the business of the Indian Legislature to be transacted in English. Government are prepared to consider such amendment of the rule as the consensus of opinion of the members may recommend.

It is obviously an anomaly for an Indian Legislature to carry on its work in a foreign language. A change will have to be made but it must be appreciated that the change over will have to face various difficulties.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that on the 7th November in the Council of State an assurance has been given by the Honourable Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan on behalf of Government that if this House also agrees to this change he will allow Honourable Members to speak in Hindustani as soon as possible?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Even now nobody objects.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I was not personally aware of the exact terms of the statement made in the other House, but I have no doubt that so far as the Government are concerned, they would welcome if the House so chooses, any member speaking in Hindustani.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask whether it will be binding on the European Group also to speak in Urdu?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. There is no question of its being binding on any one, it is a question of people being permitted to speak.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: May I ask whether every Member of this House can understand Hindustani?

Mr. President: That will be a different matter.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Is the Honourable Member aware that many Members of this House do not understand Hindustani?

Mr. President: All these questions will arise when the matter of language is being considered by the House, and not before.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

591. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state.

(a) whether it is a fact that residential accommodation for the members of this Assembly is much less than actually required for accommodating them;

(b) whether Government are aware that much difficulty is felt in accommodating them during the sessions of this House and some of them are left unaccommodated, and

(c) whether Government propose to make immediate arrangements for accommodating them all by the next session either by undertaking new constructions or requisitioning houses?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes

(b) Yes. The main difficulty is not so much of providing accommodation during the sessions of this House as of providing M L A quarters to all the Honourable Members.

(c) Government do not now have the power of requisitioning fresh buildings. The Works, Mines and Power Department have under consideration various proposals for providing additional accommodation and, I understand, they propose to place them shortly before the Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislature attached to the Department. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to replies given to part (d) of question No 813 and parts (d) and (e) of question No 814 by Mr. Manu Subedar, M L A, on the 7th November 1946.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware of the very acute discontent on this subject among Members of all parties in this House and will they consider the desirability—as in Washington and U S A—of placing a house at the disposal of every Member from the beginning of the life of an Assembly, so that he may not be displaced during the period of the working of the Assembly and he may have his papers, files and personal effects there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is obvious from the questions asked in this House that there is a measure of discontent, as the Honourable Member has pointed out. As for providing a house for each Member, Government would no doubt like to provide not houses but palaces for each Member. But there are obviously certain limitations. As I have already said in my reply, there is no question of lack of accommodation; Members can go to the Western Court and other hostels. But if each Member requires a separate house a certain difficulty arises because the housing accommodation is limited, but Government will try to provide more and more of this housing accommodation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government consider the fact that the houses which were built for Members of this Assembly are actually diverted to the use

of Government officials in highly expanded departments? If so, would it be possible for Government to restore to Members of the two Houses the quarters originally built for them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is obviously Government's duty to provide housing accommodation both for Honourable Members and for officers of Government. As a matter of fact the officers of Government have to spend all their time here whereas Honourable Members have to come from time to time, and we shall try to provide both. It is not an easy matter and the House would not desire us to turn out officers and give them no proper accommodation to live in. So the question is one of providing both and not to turn out one or the other, in which case the same difficulty will have to be faced at the other end.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member kindly use his influence with the authorities concerned and see that Members of this House who are not members of the Constituent Assembly are not forced to give up their bungalows, particularly in view of the fact that there are several select committees coming forward and the budget session is also very near?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly, Sir, we shall do everything in our power to meet the convenience of Members in this matter.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that it would not be within the means of many of us to maintain palaces, will the Honourable Member kindly give up the idea of providing palaces for us, and in the meantime will he allow us to occupy the vacant rooms, about three hundred in number, on Canning Road?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am glad that the Honourable Member does not require a palace, I would be gladder still if he would prefer hostels to separate quarters, in which case our difficulties would be solved. In regard to the three hundred rooms, I regret I personally know nothing about them, but his inquiry will be transferred to the proper department of Government and given effect to as far as possible.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCOMMODATION, BOARDING, TRAVELLING AND PROTECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

592. *Seth Govind Das Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that accommodation arrangements made for the members of the Constituent Assembly are neither sufficient nor is the proposed accommodation of the standard and type in which they will be comfortable,

(b) whether Government propose to arrange for better and more suitable accommodation as also make proper arrangements for their boarding and travelling and conveyance; and

(c) whether there are adequate arrangements for their protection while they are at Delhi on duty?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) Suitable accommodation for all Members of the Constituent Assembly has been arranged for in the best hotels in Delhi or New Delhi, in Government hostels where Members of the Central Legislatures and officers of the Government of India stay, and in Constitution House on Curzon Road, which has been specially equipped for Members of the Constituent Assembly. In addition, a few M. L. A. quarters will also be available for Members of the Constituent Assembly.

Boarding in hotels and Government hostels is of a standard type, but in Constitution House, special arrangements have been made, not only for vegetarians and non-vegetarians, but also for persons who may prefer South Indian, Bengali, European, or North Indian cooking.

As for travelling and conveyance arrangements, attention is invited to a circular issued to all Members of the Constituent Assembly on the 21st October

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[15TH Nov. 1946]

1946, of which a copy is placed on the table of the House. It contains details of arrangements which have been made

(c) Suitable arrangements will be made.

Circular No CA 2/Ser /46
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

To

All Members of the Constituent Assembly of India

New Delhi, the 21st October 1946

SUBJECT —Travel and other facilities for members of the Constituent Assembly

Sir,

With a view to relieve you from unnecessary trouble, as far as possible, in making arrangements for your journey's to and from Delhi for meetings of the Constituent Assembly, we have arranged with MESSRS GOVAN BROTHERS, LTD, SCINDIA HOUSE, CONNAUGHT CIRCUS, NEW DELHI, to act as our official travel agents for the purchase of tickets, reservation of accommodation in trains and air services, etc

2 They will also receive Members at the stations, if desired, and provide transport from the station to the place of residence and vice versa, arrange sight seeing trips and provide transport for other purposes in Delhi

For performing the duties mentioned above in Delhi, they will station a trained man a few days before the Assembly session starts, and till a few days afterwards, at Constitution House (where the bulk of the Members are expected to choose to stay) in order to be in direct touch with the Members and the management of Constitution House

They will not make any extra charges for all these Services Members will only have to pay the actual cost of the transport provided

3 Members who desire to avail themselves of the facilities mentioned above are advised to contact in good time the Head Office of Messrs Govan Brothers, Ltd, or any of their branch offices at the addresses given below, so that arrangements for their travel, reception, etc, may be made well in advance —

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| NEW DELHI | Messrs Govan Bros Ltd, Passage Deptt, Head Office, Scindia House, Connaught Circus
Telegram: GOVBRO' Telephone 7682 |
| MADRAS | Messrs Govan Bros Ltd, Passage Deptt, Bharat Buildings, Mount Road
Telegram: GOVBROS' Tel phone 3745 |
| BOMBAY | The American Express Company Inc, Travel Dept, "Navami Building", (1 Floor), 240, Hornby Road, Post Box No 507,
Telegrams "AMEXCO" Telephone 25295 |
| CALCUTTA | The American Express Company, Inc, Travel Dept, P O Box No. 2311, "Pollock House", 28, Pollock Street
Telegram: "AMEXCO" Tel phone 2096 |
| KARACHI | The American Express Co, Inc, Travel Dept, P O Box No. 533, "Oriental Building", McLeod Road
Telegram: "AMEXCO". Telephone 3461 |
| LAHORE | Messrs. Govan Bros Ltd, 3, Sir Ganga Ram Trust Building, The Mall
Telegrams "GEORFMANCO" Telephone 2988 |

4 The Railway Department (Railway Board) have suggested that it would facilitate the work of the various Railway Administrations if the authorities concerned are given advance notice for reservation of accommodation on railways in good time, and that in case any difficulty is experienced in securing accommodation, the matter should at once be reported to the General Manager of the Railway concerned in the first instance, instead of through the office of the Constitutional Adviser or the Railway Board. This will eliminate delay and permit prompt action being taken to remedy defects.

5 The Railway Administrations have been asked by the Railway Board to extend in your favour the period in advance of the actual date of travel within which tickets may be purchased to 30 days, so as to enable you to secure early reservation

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. V R. IENGAR,

Secretary, Constituent Assembly.

Seth Govind Das: With regard to part (c), will Government be pleased to issue licenses to Members for pistols of 45 bore for their own protection, because members of the Constituent Assembly and of this House are entitled to firearms if they are available, and as they are not available in the market will Government see that they are made available to Members who wish to have them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member has himself said that they are entitled to have them but he wants Government to make special efforts to procure them for him. If I may say so, Sir, going about with a pistol of either 45 bore or any other bore is not exactly the way to protect oneself, it is more likely to give rise to trouble and apprehensions on the part of other people. I do not mean to say that Members will go about attacking others, nevertheless this idea of encouraging people to go about with pistols is most undesirable and improper.

GRANT OF COMPENSATION TO SYT UTTAMCHAND, HOST OF SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE IN AFGHANISTAN

593. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state

(a) whether one Syt Uttamchand, an Indian trader, was carrying on trade and business in Afghanistan,

(b) whether he gave protection to and was the host of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose after the latter had left India,

(c) whether thereafter he had to suffer heavily, financial and other losses;

(d) the extent of loss, monetary or otherwise, suffered by him, and

(e) whether Government propose to compensate Syt Uttamchand fully for all the losses suffered by him in this connection?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes

(b) The Government of India have no information apart from the articles in the press ascribed to Mr Uttam Chand himself

(c) and (d) Mr Uttam Chand made a claim against the Afghan Government for about Rs 2½ lakhs (Afghani) or about Rs 62,000 Indian currency. Government are not in a position to assess the accuracy or otherwise of this claim. It is understood that the Afghan Government paid him a sum of Rs 12,800 Indian Currency in full settlement.

(e) The Government of India would not regard it as practicable to compensate Indians for alleged losses suffered in foreign countries.

SHORTAGE OF ELECTRIC SUPPLY IN DELHI

594. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that, due to shortage of supply of electricity, it is practically impossible to get a new electric connection either for residential or business premises or industrial purposes these days, and that the people of Delhi are being put to considerable inconvenience on that account? If so, what steps are being taken by Government to increase the supply of electricity?

(b) When do Government propose to bring about normal conditions in this respect?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes. The present load on the Delhi system is substantially above its safe generating capacity. Steps have been taken to increase the capacity immediately by 2,000 K. W. by the setting up of an auxiliary Power House on Bela Road. Orders have also been placed for two Turbo Sets of 10,000 K. W. each and the necessary steam raising plant to increase the generating capacity as a long-term measure.

(b) Some improvement in the supply position is likely to be effected early next year, but it will not be possible to restore normal conditions till the turbo-sets have been brought into commission in 1948.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what is the percentage of electricity consumed by Government out of the 14,000 K W produced by the Central Power House?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I must ask for notice of that question

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if the Honourable Member is in a position to inform the House whether out of this additional energy that is likely to be produced by these Diesel Sets, some of it will be made available to public?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Certainly, Sir

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the stoppage of war has made no difference so far as the consumption of electricity by the Government of India is concerned, on the other hand it has increased?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I have not got the figures, but I have no doubt that the consumption of electricity has increased all round

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is he in a position to say whether more Diesel Sets cannot be procured from Military and placed at the disposal of the Central Power House with a view to increase the generating capacity?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The matter will be investigated

HOUSES DE-REQUISITIONED DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS

595. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state the number of houses that were requisitioned by Government under the Defence of India Rules?

(b) What is the number of houses that have been de-requisitioned during the last six months?

(c) What is the principle followed by Government in de-requisitioning houses?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) The number of houses requisitioned by the Central Government under the Defence of India Rules was 360 in Delhi and New Delhi and 97 in Simla. Information as regards requisitions by the Central Government in other parts of India or by the Provincial and local Governments is not available

(b) The number of houses de-requisitioned during the last six months was 21 in Delhi and New Delhi and three in Simla. Information as regards de-requisitioning in other parts of the country or by Provincial Governments and local administrations is not available

(c) 72 houses have so far been derequisitioned in Delhi and New Delhi and 94 in Simla. Each case was separately examined on merits, and orders of derequisitioning were passed after taking into consideration the suitability or otherwise of the house in question, the overall requirements of Government and other considerations, if any

Mr. O. P. Lawson: May I ask the Honourable Member with regard to his reply to part (c) whether he occasionally examines not the question of houses that are to be derequisitioned but the houses that are not to be derequisitioned?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Every case is periodically reviewed including the houses that are not to be derequisitioned. Whenever any application comes in for derequisitioning it is very carefully considered

Mr. O. P. Lawson: In that case can the Honourable Member assure this House that there is no house under requisition at this moment which could be derequisitioned or for which alternative accommodation has been offered to the present occupier?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: There is one particular house which I have just ordered—about half an hour ago to be derequisitioned.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: Would he answer my question, Sir? 'That is not an answer to my question.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Will the Honourable Member repeat his question?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: My question was "In that case could the Honourable Member give this House an assurance that no requisitioned house is now in the possession of persons for whom alternative accommodation has been offered or for whom the present occupation is not absolutely necessary."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I am not aware of any case in which alternative accommodation has been offered to the present occupier in place of a house which is under requisition. Every effort is made to derequisition a house as soon as possible. I have prepared a very comprehensive statement showing the whole position which I propose to place before the Standing Committee of this House on Monday next. It is quite impossible for me to deal with any specific cases at this stage.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know whether Ramjas College buildings and grounds have been derequisitioned?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I have no information.

LICENCES FOR IMPORTING COMMODITIES IN INDIA

596. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) the number of licences for importing commodities in India issued during the preceding three years,

(b) the quantity and particulars of commodities thus imported,

(c) the persons to whom those licences are granted,

(d) the number of licences for exporting commodities out of India issued during the preceding three years,

(e) the quantity and particulars of commodities thus exported, and

(f) the persons to whom export licences are granted?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (d) The information asked for is not readily available and its collection will involve considerable labour which will not be commensurate with the result achieved.

(b) and (e) The information asked for is available in the "Annual Statement of Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries" for 1943-44 and the monthly "Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India" for the later periods. Copies of these are available in the Library.

(c) Import licences are fairly freely granted at present for a majority of the goods covered by the Import Trade Control Schedule regard being had to the legitimate interests of indigenous industries and the importance of maintaining orderly disposal of Government Surpluses.

(f) Ordinarily export licences are only granted to those shippers who had exported similar goods during a particular basic period. Some commodities are, however, allowed to be exported by the manufacturers irrespective of their past performance, while there are other commodities, export of which is allowed freely on application.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is care taken by the Government to see that luxury articles are not allowed to come into this country and thus much of the sterling balances are not frittered away?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: What is a luxury article is always a question of opinion.

STATE ACQUISITION OF MINERAL RIGHTS IN BENGAL AND BIHAR

597. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state if the Indian Coal Fields Committee has unanimously recommended the State acquisition of mineral rights in Bengal and Bihar and the incorporation of a National Coal Commission, and if so, what steps do Government propose to take to implement this recommendation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The question concerns the Industries and Supplies Department and should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies

PLANNING BOARD

598. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a Planning Board? If so what are its terms of reference and the time when it is expected to submit its Report?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Government have appointed an Advisory Planning Board. Its terms of reference are

(a) to review the planning that has already been done by Government, the work of the National Planning Committee and other plans and proposals for planning,

(b) to make recommendations in the light of this review for the co-ordination and improvement of planning,

(c) to make recommendations as regards objectives and priorities

(d) to make recommendations regarding the future machinery of planning

The Board is expected to submit its report by the end of this year

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: With regard to part (c) of his answer, may I know if the Board is expected to consider detailed efforts in the various provinces, to invite such suggestions, and to submit to Government any detailed suggestions with regard to various plans?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. I have stated that the Board, which began sitting a week or two ago, is supposed to submit its report by the end of this year, that is to say it has roughly about two months or less to function. Obviously within a few weeks this Board cannot consider these various projects in detail. In fact they have been told not to do so. They have been told only to consider the broad aspects of planning and to consider more on two things firstly, objectives and the targets to be aimed at, and, secondly, the future machinery of planning and also at the same time to indicate in a general kind of way the priorities. The whole point is that so much work has been done so far in regard to planning, but it has been done in a somewhat disjointed way. Various Government departments have produced numerous projects—some of them excellent no doubt—but the point is to know exactly what we are going to do, and to co-ordinate and to lay down priorities and to have a machinery for planning. This Board is supposed to do that without regard to any particular projects or plans.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the planning Board will consider the question of planning the future of the working classes of this country, and if they are deciding the priority question whether the priority for the reconstruction of the life of the working classes will be considered by this Board?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite sure what the Honourable Member means. Planning means planning for the four hundred million people of India. I presume the working classes come in that group.

Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether he will be willing to consider the "People's Plan" prepared by Indian Federation of Labour, which expresses the views and aspirations of the Indian working classes?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This planning board as the House will realise, is a temporary board for two months and it is going to consider all the plans that have so far been made.

Miss Maniben Kara: I take it that the "People's Plan" will also be taken into consideration by this planning board?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I presume so.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE INDIAN COALFIELD COMMISSION

†599. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of India propose to give effect to the recommendation made by the Indian Coalfield Commission,

(b) the policy of Government with regard to the nationalisation of the Coal Industry, and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the control and guidance of the Coal Industry in India till it is nationalised?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The question concerns the Industries and Supplies Department and should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies

DISALLOWANCE OF ALTERNATING ELECTRIC CURRENT FOR DOMESTIC USE

600. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have got the problem of alternating and direct currents of electricity with reference to their use for domestic purposes, examined,

(b) whether it is a fact that alternating current is far more dangerous than direct current, and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to disallow the supply of alternating current for domestic purposes?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes. When domestic loads are small and lie within a comparatively small radius of the power station, use of direct current is possible, but with increased use of domestic appliances and increasing areas of supply, direct current service becomes uneconomic and unflexible, as it does not lend itself to expansion beyond a particular distance. For these reasons it is considered desirable that all domestic supplies should conform, as soon as may be practicable, to the standard of 230 volts single phase, 50 cycle alternating current.

(b) No. Such misapprehension gained ground during the later part of last century when it was not understood what adequate protective measures were necessary. Both systems are dangerous if proper safeguards are not taken. In fact, it is held that burns resulting from direct current can be more severe than those occasioned by alternating current of equal pressure.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is it not a fact that the effect of direct current is to throw off its victim while the action of the alternating current is paralyzing, and therefore the alternating current is more dangerous? Has the Honourable Member any record of the cases of death occurring from the two currents?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: We have been told by our experts that alternating current is preferable and not more dangerous than direct current. All over the world alternating current is used in preference to direct current which is used only in small places.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If that is so, why have they in New Delhi deliberately got the direct current, and if you will permit me, Sir, I may inform the Honourable Member that Sir James Pitkeathley agreed with me on this point and he appointed a Committee to go into the matter which found that the alternating current was more dangerous for domestic purposes than the direct current. Will the Honourable Member kindly make further enquiries in the matter, for if he will, he will find that in New Delhi, Naini Tal, Lucknow, Calcutta—

wherever there are seats of Government—they use direct current and allow us to die in mofussil towns from alternating current on the pretext of economy.

Mr. President: Order, order Let the question be answered.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Direct current was generally put in in most of these towns at the very beginning because it was cheaper and easier to put in direct current for a small supply. But as the area of supply increases and as the load increases, it becomes very uneconomic and dangerous to go on increasing the supply of direct current, and in almost every town, the supply may have begun with direct current but is gradually switched on to alternating current, as soon as the total goes beyond a certain load say 200 or 800 K.W. I am not an expert, nor have I experienced electric shock. But our experts, and I believe the experts all over the world, agree that alternating current is preferable to direct current, except where it is only a very small area and a very small supply.

Shri Sri Prakasa: As one who has experienced shocks from both types of current, and would much prefer the shocks of direct current to that of the alternating current, may I ask the Honourable Member if he is introducing the alternating current in New Delhi in view of the fact that the population is increasing, and if not, why not?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The idea is to have alternating current all over, but it is not easy to switch over from direct to alternating current, because you have to change the fans and various other gadgets and the power stations. As and when it is possible, we shall certainly switch on to alternating current all over India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why? Is there no evidence of such shocks?

Shri Sri Prakasa: I received the shocks, and the evidence of the alternating current is still on my person, and none of the direct.

Mr. President: Next question.

ABOLITION OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

601. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state when the decision to abolish the Planning and Development Department was taken, and what the reasons for doing so were?

(b) Why was not the Standing Committee of the Assembly consulted before abolishing the Department?

(c) Why were no meetings of the Planning Committee held?

(d) Did the present Government re-consider the question, and with what results?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The decision to abolish the Planning and Development Department was announced in a Communiqué issued from the Viceroy's House on the 29th June, 1946. The reason given for this was that "Planning has now reached a stage at which it can be completed and implemented by the individual departments concerned."

(b) I presume that this was considered unnecessary. This was done at the time when a Caretaker Government was appointed.

(c) I do not know, Sir, to which Planning Committee the Honourable Member refers.

(d) I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the Press Communiqué issued recently announcing the setting up of an Advisory Planning Board. I lay a copy of it on the table.

Press Communiqué

With a view to co-ordinating and improving Plans for the Development of the country, the Government of India have decided to appoint an Advisory Planning Board to review the Planning work that has already been done, whether by official or non-official agencies, and to make recommendations to Government regarding objectives and priorities, and regarding the future machinery of Planning.

The Board will be composed as follows —

Chairman Mr. K C Neogy
Members - Non-Officials: . . Prof. Meghnad Saha,
Nawab Ali Nawaz Jung
Mr Gangavihari L. Mehta
Mr. Shuab Qureshi,
Dr Zakir Husain, and
Prof K. T. Shah.

Prof K T Shah will also act as Honorary Secretary

Officials: Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director, Scientific and
Industrial Research
Dr Nazir Ahmad, Member, Tariff Board
Mr H K Kripalani, Industrial Adviser, I & S Department
Mr S. A. Venkataswami, Director-General, I & S Department
Mr V Narasimham Rao, Financial Secretary
Sir Pheroza Khan, Agricultural Secretary
Mr E P Moon, Secretary, Development Board

Mr. E P Moon will be Secretary to the Board

The Board will meet early in November and is expected to complete its work in about two months

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I refer to the Standing Committee of the House.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Is the Honourable Member referring to part (c)?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, to the Standing Committee of this House

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know why it was not held, unless it was that people concerned were not interested in its work

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Because the department was abolished.

Mr. President: Next question.

STATEMENT ON CONDITIONS OF INDIAN SEAMEN IN GREAT BRITAIN BY MR. DHYAN SINGH MUNGAT

602. ***Miss Maniben Kara:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether Government are aware of a statement pertaining to conditions of Indian seamen in Great Britain made by Mr Dhyansingh Mungat, Vice President, Indian Seafarers' Federation and appearing in the *Vanguard*, dated November 1st?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to remove the defects pointed out?

(c) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House information on the following points—

(i) the machinery set up for looking after Indian seamen's welfare in Great Britain,

(ii) the number of boarding houses run by public agencies, the places where they are situated and the average number of seamen catered for by those boarding houses,

(iii) the recreational facilities provided in those boarding houses or otherwise,

(iv) the type of accommodation and food and clothing provided in those boarding houses, and

(v) the average number of seamen visiting various ports in Great Britain for whom welfare arrangements are necessary?

(d) How do the arrangements made for Indian seamen compare with the arrangements made for seamen of other countries?

(e) What is the existing machinery for exercising the Government of India's supervision over the arrangements made?

(f) Are annual reports received? If not, do Government propose to introduce the system of asking for annual reports?

(g) Do Government propose to lay the annual reports on the table of the House and also make them available to the public?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes

(b) Government have no doubt that the conditions of Indian seamen in the United Kingdom, as in India and elsewhere, are capable of improvement, but they cannot accept the report as giving an accurate account of existing conditions. They cannot admit that the High Commissioner has shown very little concern for the welfare of Indian seamen in the United Kingdom, and I would also point out that in the only concrete example quoted Mr Mangat appears to have been misinformed. He stated that there was only one Indian Seamen's Welfare Officer for the whole of Scotland. In fact, however, there is an Assistant Seamen's Welfare Officer, as well as a Seamen's Welfare Officer, stationed at Glasgow. Nevertheless the Government have called for a report from the High Commissioner for India, and will consider the whole matter further when the report is received.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information, as far as available, is laid on the table of the House.

(d) Information about the arrangements made by other countries for their seamen visiting the United Kingdom is not available and hence comparisons are not possible.

(e) The information asked for has been furnished in the statement laid on the table in reply to part (c).

(f) No Government, however, have already asked for monthly reports to be furnished to them.

(g) Monthly reports contain detailed information and are not generally suitable for publication. Government however are considering the question of publishing an annual survey of the Seamen's Welfare activities not only in the United Kingdom but also in India and other overseas countries where Indian Seamen's Welfare Officers have been appointed. Copies of such surveys will be supplied to the Library of the House as and when published.

Statement

(i) The welfare of Indian seamen in Great Britain is looked after by the High Commissioner for India, London, assisted by 3 Seamen's Welfare Officers and 3 Assistant Seamen's Welfare Officers, stationed one each at London, Liverpool and Glasgow, and covering all ports falling within defined areas.

(ii) There are four boarding houses exclusively reserved for Indian seamen, two at Glasgow, one at Birkenhead and one at Liverpool. Information as to the numbers entered for is not available here and has been called for.

(iii) Indian newspapers and magazines, Indian musical instruments, Indian gramophone records and indoor games of various kinds. In addition similar recreational facilities are available at the clubs at Avonmouth, Falmouth, Manchester, Cardiff, Hull, Newport, and Swansea. Two new recreation centres are also being set up in the London area. Excursions to places of interest, special gatherings at times of Hindu and Muslim festivals, Indian film shows and Indian musical evenings are also arranged at most of the above centres.

(iv) The accommodation provided in the boarding houses conforms to the regulations laid down by the local health authorities. The seamen are supplied with Indian food and necessary bedding.

(v) The information is not available and has been called for.

Miss Maniben Kara: Mr Mangat attended the International Seamen's Conference held on 28th October. He personally visited the ports and he issued a statement on the conditions as he saw them. This statement created so much public resentment, even among the British public, that his statement was published in the *Daily Herald*, which is the organ of the Labour Party.

Mr. President: Order, order. What is the question? The Honourable Member is making a speech.

Miss Maniben Kara: The question is whether the Honourable Member is of the opinion that the High Commissioner has not neglected the conditions of the workers in Great Britain. I want to find out from the Honourable Member if the conditions which are described by Mr Mungat, who actually visited those parts and made a statement, are so bad. If so, the High Commissioner can certainly take up certain immediate measures and some extra welfare officers can be appointed to look after the interests of the Indian seamen.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: As I said Mr Mungat proceeded on the assumption that there was only one Seamen's Welfare Officer. Even that information of his was incorrect. As I have pointed out there are several officers there. Secondly, the High Commissioner for India is looking to the interests of Indian seamen. We have recently received a report that one hostel (*viz.*, the Moghull Camp) which was not found very suitable had been given up and in its place the seamen have been transferred to Mere Hall (and the Missions to Seamen Hostel) which have much better accommodation. Whenever any complaints are made, they are looked into and the High Commissioner tries to obtain the best possible facilities in the matter. As I have already said, conditions are not as satisfactory as they should be, but the question is receiving attention.

Miss Maniben Kara: On this question I would say that I personally visited the Hostel.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may put only the question.

Miss Maniben Kara: My question is that whether the Honourable Member is sure that in spite of the representation made to the High Commissioner, the latter has not neglected to pay attention to this matter, because those conditions still continue to exist.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: If there are any specific complaints the Honourable Member can refer them to me and I will specially refer them to the High Commissioner. So far there is no evidence that the High Commissioner has neglected to do this duty in the matter.

RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT OF PLYWOOD FROM INDIA

† 603. ***Sri A. K. Menon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether Government have received complaints regarding restrictions imposed on the export of plywood from India to foreign countries such as Rangoon, Colombo and East Africa? If so, do Government propose to grant permits to facilitate such exports?

(b) Is it a fact that during the war Government encouraged the output of plywood products for meeting the needs of the Government? If so, what steps do Government propose to take for assisting the disposal of increased plywood articles manufactured by the Indian Plywood Industries now, after the war?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question concerns the Department of Industries and Supplies and should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

PROPOSAL OF PROF B. P. ADARKAR ^{RE} HEALTH INSURANCE FOR WORKERS

604. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) what are the proposals of Prof. B. P. Adarkar regarding health insurance for workers in factories, mills and mines, etc.,

(b) what steps were taken by the Labour Department to give effect to the scheme chalked out by him,

(c) whether Government accepted all the proposals or not, and

(d) if not, what are the proposals which Government have accepted?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Prof. Adarkar's proposals regarding Health Insurance for industrial workers are contained in a report published as a priced publication in 1944 entitled 'Report on Health Insurance for Industrial workers'. The scheme outlined in the report was intended to cover workers in only three major groups of industries, namely, textiles engineering and minerals and metals. The benefits proposed were (i) medical care and treatment through a special medical organisation, and (ii) payment of cash benefits at specified rates during periods of certified sickness subject to certain limits. No scheme was formulated in respect of workers in mines.

(b) The scheme was further examined by M/s. Stack and Rao of the International Labour Organisation, who visited the country for this purpose at the invitation of the Government of India. They recommended—

(i) that medical care and treatment should be furnished through the agency of provincial medical departments,

(ii) that sickness benefit should be furnished to together with maternity benefit and workmen's compensation through a single comprehensive scheme, and

(iii) that the scheme should apply to all persons employed in all perennial factories employing 20 or more persons.

They also suggested certain changes in wage groups, rates of contributions and benefits. These proposals were further considered in consultation with Provincial Governments, organisations of employers and workers and in the light of further actuarial calculations. As a result of these discussions, certain proposals were evolved and they have been embodied in the Bill which was introduced in the Assembly on the 6th November.

(c) and (d) As already stated, the Bill before the Assembly goes further than the recommendations in Adarkar's report and is a definite improvement upon the original scheme.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the Government of India is preparing any scheme of health insurance for the benefit of the miners in India? *

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is engaging the attention of the Government.

Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member inform this House as to how many years Prof. Adarkar took to gather the data, to prepare the report, to prepare the proposals?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Honourable Member can refer to Prof. Adarkar's report itself.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN KAROLBAGH

605. *Miss Maniben Kara: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state whether it is a fact that

(i) double-storeyed Government quarters in Karol Bagh, known as '12 Acre site' quarters have not been provided with electric current,

(ii) one of the roads alongside these quarters is electrified on both ends but bulbs have not been provided in the portion in front of the quarters although electric poles and wiring exist;

(iii) the residents of these quarters have made several representations to the Department of Works, Mines and Power and to the Electrical Division of the Central Public Works Department about the supply of electric current;

(iv) these quarters are situated at the farthest end of Karol Bagh, and

(v) the supply of electricity to these quarters was sanctioned at the time of their construction in 1945?

(b) Why electric current has not so far been provided?

(c) What steps Government propose to take for the supply of electric current to these quarters to redress the genuine grievance of their occupants, and by what date the supply may be expected?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) (i) Yes, (ii) Yes, (iii) Yes, (iv) Yes, (v) Yes

(b) The licensee, the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Co Ltd have not been able to provide electricity for these Government quarters because their quota of bulk supply of current from the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority is insufficient to meet the demand

(c) Government are setting up a diesel auxiliary power house at Bela Road, Delhi to augment the supply of the main power house which generates electricity under the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority. This auxiliary power house is expected to come into operation about the end of December 1946 when electric current will be available to the Government quarters at Karol Bagh. Government are, however, exploring other temporary means to supply power between now and the end of December

Shri Sri Prakasa: What sort of current will be produced from this Power House? Will it be direct or alternating current?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I presume it is alternating

Shri Sri Prakasa: Why not make sure that it is going to be direct, it cannot be alternating if it is in Delhi?

(No answer was given)

CONSTRUCTION OF CHUMMERIES IN LODI ROAD COLONY

***606. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constructed about 200 single-seated and 480 double-seated chummeries in the Lodi Road Colony,

(b) whether it is a fact that in the double-seated chummeries any two persons are billeted together which, in several cases, results in the allottees putting up with complete strangers with sometimes incompatible temperaments,

(c) whether it is a fact that only two latrines, two baths and one kitchen are provided with sets of ten single-seated chummeries or five double-seated chummeries,

(d) whether it is a fact that due to varying tastes and dietary habits, it is not always possible for the allottees to share their meals in the common kitchens provided,

(e) whether it is a fact that complaints have been made to Government about these difficulties, and

(f) whether Government propose to look into the matter?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes

(b) Yes But if any allottee desires to move into any other chummary he is permitted by the Estate Officer to do so. All efforts are made at the time of allotment to see that suitable allottees are billeted together

(c) Yes

(d) The allottees who find any difficulty in sharing meals in the common or communal kitchens can make their own arrangements. The allotment rules

provide for separate block if necessary, for (a) Muslims, (b) General Non-vegetarians, (c) Orthodox vegetarians, and (d) Scheduled castes.

(e) Complaints were received regarding (b) and provision was made in the rules for change of allotment. No complaints have been received as regards (d).

(f) Does not arise.

HIGH RENT CHARGED FROM GOVERNMENT SERVANTS FOR CHUMMERIES IN LODI ROAD COLONY

1807 Mr Ahmed E H Jafar: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government servants occupying chummeries in the Lodi Road Colony are required to pay for a half-room or one-small room 10 per cent of their salaries which is the basis on which rent is charged from married Government servants for self-contained units of two, three or four rooms with separate kitchens, baths and latrines,

(b) whether it is a fact that Government servants are generally unwilling to occupy these chummeries on account of lack of facilities and high rent charged and for that reason about 180 out of 200 single-seated chummeries and about 300 seats in the double-seated chummeries are lying vacant,

(c) whether it is a fact that the Imperial Secretariat Association represented to Government in the matter in August last,

(d) whether it is a fact that a representation on the subject was made by about 400 residents of the chummeries in September last, and

(e) whether Government propose to look into the matter.

Mr B K Gokhale: (a) All Government servants occupying Government accommodation are required under the rules, to pay ten per cent of their emoluments or the standard rent of the accommodation provided, whichever is less.

(b) Government are aware of the unpopularity of these chummeries. The vacancies in these chummeries are as follows: 170 out of 200 single roomed chummeries, and 188 out of 480 double roomed chummeries.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) The matter is already under consideration. It is proposed to convert a large number of single roomed chummeries into small married and family suites. Other reasons for the unpopularity of these chummeries are also being examined.

PROVISIONS OF THE NEW DELHI RENT CONTROL ORDER

608. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state whether it is a fact that under the provision, of the New Delhi Rent Control Order now in force, house-owners cannot have their own houses vacated for their *bonafide* personal use if they have at any time lived in Delhi during the previous twelve months?

(b) Was this restriction contained in the original Order? If not, when was it introduced, and why?

(c) Are Government aware that there are a number of persons employed in Government service at Delhi who own houses but who have had to live in quarters provided by Government for the efficient discharge of their duties, and had to let out their own houses?

(d) Are such persons also subjected to the restriction mentioned in part (a) above?

+ Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(e) Is it a fact that Government servants on retirement have to vacate their quarters officially allotted to them?

(1) Do Government propose to exempt such persons from the operation of the clause of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939 relating to their residing in Delhi during the previous twelve months? If not, why not?

Mr B. K. Gokhale: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) This restriction was introduced with effect from the 25th January 1944. Prior to that date it was possible for house-owners to evict tenants on the ground that the house was reasonably and in good faith required by a land-lord for his own occupation, or for the occupation of any person for whose benefit the house was held by him. This created serious difficulties in practice and the Order was therefore amended.

(c) Government are not aware of any such cases. The allotment of Government accommodation is optional and nobody is forced to occupy any quarter except in rare cases where a Government servant is required to reside in his official residence for the efficient discharge of his duties.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

(1) The question of rent control in Delhi is now being reviewed and the suggestion made by the Honourable Member will be considered.

EVICION OF TENANTS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT UNDER THE NEW DELHI HOUSE RENT CONTROL ORDER

60. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Secretary to the Works, Mines and Power Department please state whether it is a fact that under the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939, a house owner can get his tenant evicted for non-payment of rent, but that the Rent Controller cannot enforce this eviction if a tenant declares his willingness before the Controller to pay the rent?

(b) Are Government aware that, in a number of cases, tenants when summoned by the Rent Controller declared their willingness to pay the rent but actually did not do so?

(c) Do Government propose to amend the rules so as to provide that if the Rent Controller is satisfied that rent has not been paid for, say, two months or more, he should order immediate eviction of the tenant? If not, why not?

Mr B. K. Gokhale: (a) The position is as stated in Clause 11A(3) of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939.

(b) The Rent Controller reports that where tenants declare their willingness to pay the rent, he always fixes, in consultation with the landlord, a date by which the rent must be paid. Where tenants wilfully disregard such orders, the Rent Controller passes orders of eviction. But where the Rent Controller has reason to believe that the landlord avoided to receive payment of rent by due date, parties are again heard and decision given on merits.

(c) The entire question of rent control after the 25th March 1947, when the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939 is due to expire, is now under consideration.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIAL IN DELHI

610. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state whether Government are aware of the difference in prices of building material as they prevailed before the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939, was enforced and those prevailing now? If so, what are the comparative prices of some of the main articles of building material?

(b) What is the basis on which rent of houses is fixed in Delhi?

(c) What are the reasons for retaining the House Rent Control Order in Delhi?

(d) Do Government propose to revise the rents fixed for houses in Delhi according to the prevailing prices of building material? If not, why not?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. A statement of comparative prices of some of the main articles as given by the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department is laid on the table.

(b) A reference is invited to Clause 8 and following clauses of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939, and Delhi Rent Control Ordinance, 1944.

(c) The House Rent Control Orders are being continued because the housing problem continues to be acute and makes it imperative to retain control on house rents.

(d) The entire question of rent control is now under the consideration of Government.

Statement

Materials	Pre-war rates	Rates in 1946	% increase
	Rs A P	Rs A P	
Bricks	8 0 0 per 1,000	24 0 0 per 1,000	200 %
Balls—t 3/8/- to 1½"	15 0 0 100 cft average	30 0 0 per 100 average	100 %
Sand (Local)	5 0 0 100 cft	10 0 0 100 cft	100 %
Lime	0 12 0 per md	2 0 0 per md	150 %
Paints (Imported)			250 %
Stone (Agia stone)	1 4 0 per cft	3 0 0 per cft	150 %
<i>Wood</i>			
Ordinary	2 0 0 cft	4 0 0 cft	100 %
Teakwood	5 0 0 to 6 0 0 cft	8 0 0 to 12 0 0 cft	100 %
Steel	8 0 0 per cwt	15 0 0 cwt	90 %
<i>Labour</i>			
Beldar	0 7 6 per day	1 4 0 per day	150 %
Black layer	1 4 0 to 1 8 0 per day	2 4 0 to 3 8 0 per day	100 %
Black smith	1 8 0 per day	3 0 0 per day	200 %
Bhandham	1 0 0 per day	2 8 0 per day	150 %
Carpenter	1 4 0 to 1 12 0 per day	2 8 0 to 3 0 0 per day	100 %
Painter	1 0 0 per day	2 4 0 per day	125 %
Transport by carts			about 200 %
Transport by lorries		...	about 100 %

ADJUDICATORS AWARD ON THE DISPUTE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS WORKERS

611. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the adjudicator regarding the dispute of the Government of India Press workers has given his award,

(b) if so, whether a copy of the award will be placed on the table of the House, and

(c) how long it will take to give effect to the award?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Yes

(b) No The award is under the consideration of Government and I do not propose to lay a copy on the table at this stage

(c) A decision is expected to be reached shortly

Diwan Chaman Lall: How long has this award been before the Government?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It has been before the Government for some time

Diwan Chaman Lall: Does the Honourable Member think it necessary to expedite a decision on this matter?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram As I have already said we are going to expedite the decision

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee. Has the award been forwarded to the Workers Organisation of the Government of India Press?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Not yet

Mr N M Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India is not bound to publish and give effect to the award in a reasonable time?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Government of India is not bound to publish the report

Mr N M. Joshi May I ask whether they have got no moral duty also?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: They are examining the award. They have got a moral duty and that is to see that the workers get a fair deal. They are trying to do that and will continue to do it

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask that from the action of the Government of India in not giving effect to the award, are we justified in entering that the Government of India finds it difficult to give effect to the award?

Mr President: That is a matter of opinion

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of the report being circulated among the Members of this House confidentially?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I cannot commit myself at this stage. The report is under the consideration of the Government of India and after the Government have arrived at some decision the report may be laid on the table of the House

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask our more question Sir? Will the Government explain to this House why so much delay has been caused in coming to a decision on the report of the Adjudicator?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The reasons are obvious. As I have already stated, the report is under the consideration of this Government. As soon as they have considered it, effect will be given to those portions of the report or to the entire report if it is found feasible

Mr. Satyapriya Banerjee: Is it a fact that the award is entirely in favour of the workers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I cannot say that. It is still under consideration.

ENQUIRY INTO THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

612. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that an officer on special duty was appointed to enquire into the affairs of the four Government of India Presses in different parts of the country,

(b) if so, whether he has finished his enquiry, and

(c) the results of the enquiry and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to give effect to the recommendations of the special officer?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) The Officer on Special Duty has submitted his Report pointing "out various anomalies. Most of them relate to pay and service conditions. As the Central Pay Commission are now busy investigating into the future scales of pay and conditions of service of all Central Government Servants a copy of the Report has been furnished to them. Steps to remove the anomalies pointed out by the Officer will be considered as soon as the recommendations of the Commission become available to the Government of India.

AZAD HIND ORGANISATION IN EUROPE

613 *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) the number and names of those members of Netaji Subhas Chaudha Bose's Azad Hind Organisation in Europe who are in Germany,

(b) the number and names of those who are still in detention in Detention Camps and Camps for displaced persons in Germany,

(c) the number and names of those whose freedom of movement is restricted in Germany,

(d) whether his attention has been drawn to the plight of Indians in Germany as described in the *Hindustan Times* of 28th October, 1946, and

(e) the policy of the Government of India in this regard and how it is going to be implemented?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The actual number and names of members of this organisation now in Germany are not known to Government. A list of the 92 Indian nationals believed to have been in Germany at the conclusion of the war is placed on the table.

(b) There are now no Indians under detention in Germany.

(c) Government are not aware of any restrictions placed on their freedom of movement other than those imposed by the local occupation authorities on all civilians in Germany.

(d) Government are aware that these persons, in common with all civilians in Germany, have experienced difficulties and hardships, though they have no evidence that the article in question is a correct statement of the position. They have asked for full information from the Indian Mission in Berlin which is in touch with every known Indian national in Germany.

(e) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to (b) and (c) of the reply given to Mr. Dani's question No. 453 on the 12th November 1946.

List of Indians in Germany on the 1st July 1946

- 1 AHMAD (Hafiz) Manzil ud Din
Present address: Rubenstrasse 103 Blu-Friedenau Berlin
- 2 AHMAD Zia ul Din
Present address: Bahnhofstrasse 23 Doheln
- 3 AHUJA Lekh Raj
Present address: Kaiserdamm 15, Berlin Charlottenburg

- 4 ALEXANDER, Joseph (formerly Chandra Shekhar Misra)
Living at Frankfurt am-Main
- 5 BAIG, Mirza Wali Ahmed
Present address D P Camp, Spandau, Berlin
- 6 BANNERJI, Devendra Nath
Living at Bamberg
- 7 BANNERJI Jogindra Kumar
Living at Muenster
- 8 BHADURI, Bhabesh Chandra
Living at Cologne
- 9 BHATTA, Dodavoor Anantharama
Living at Massenweiler Nr Ravensburg (American Zone)
- 10 BILLIMORIA, Naval Framji
Living at Berlin
- 11 BOSE Ganga Nath
Living at Brunswick
- 12 BOSE Kalpana Kumari
Present address Edelhofstrasse 21 Hilden Dusseldorf
- 13 CHAUDHURI, Anna Chand
Living in Berlin (Russian Zone)
- 14 CHAUDHURI Baldev Raj
Present address Ruthing Strasse 23 Oldenburg
- 15 CHAUDHURI Sukhdev
Present address Bogenstrasse 28 Oldenburg
- 16 CHANDRA Babu Suresh
Living at Westmunde
- 17 DALAL Navin Kumar
Lives in Frankfurt am Main with his mother
- 18 DALAL, Mrs Susanna
Living at Frankfurt am-Main with her son
- 19 DESHPANDE Miss Shindhu Madhava
Living at Heidelberg
- 20 DEO Santa Devi
Present address Fbh 75 Ansbach, Mittel Franken (N. Nurnberg)
- 21 DEY Gora Chand
Living at Brunswick
- 22 DHAWAN Kripa Ram
Living at Hamburg
- 23 FAROZHI Abdul Quddus
Living at Hamburg
- 24 GANPULEY Nihar Govind
Present address Sonnenhagen 3, bei Knieche Hanover
- 25 GILL Mrs Dalip Singh
Present address Veitnhurststrasse 76 Berlin-Charlottenburg
- 26 GILL, Sardul Singh
Present address Grolmanstrasse 32/33 bei Schmidt Berlin-Charlottenburg
- 27 GRANDHI Babu Raganatha
Present address Sibovl Strasse 40, Berlin-Wilmersdorf
- 28 GUPTA, Bujay Sri
Present address Poststrasse 27, Dinsberg
- 29 GUPTA, Das
Living at Hamburg
- 30 JHANJEE Shyam Lal K
Living in Berlin
- 31 KESARBANI, Dr Dhramnand
Living at Holzkirchen, near Munich
- 32 KHAN, Abdul Rahman
Living in Berlin
- 33 KHANNA Lakshmi Narayan
Living at Gablonsz
- 34 KENI, Dattatrayaya Ramnath
Living in Dusseldorf

- 35 LAL, Guni Dyal
Present address Schuhmannstrasse 18, Bonn
- 36 MADAN, Dr Raghunandan Lal
Living in Hamburg
- 37 MAMA, Kureshed Burjorji
Present address Baterniewall, 1, c/o Behrens, Helmstedt
- 38 MAMDAPURKAR, Gopal Venkatesh
Living in Berlin
- 39 MANDRE Mrs Caroline
Living in Dorfen a/Isen
- 40 MAZUMDAR Ajit Kumar *alias* Thomas Ajit Kumar *alias* Ajit Kumar Chatterji
Living in Hanover
- 41 MITRA, Harakali
Present address Albert Schaefflestasse, 134, Stuttgart
- 42 MUKHERJI Braja Lal
Present address Communienstrasse 41, bei Stoffers, Bunnswick
- 43 NAIK Lalubhai
Present address Patteistasse 6 Berlin
- 44 NAIK Yeswant Deo
Present address Reichskanzlei platz 8 Berlin Charlottenburg
- 45 NAGESHAR Vishwa Nath Govind
Living in Munich
- 46 NAMBIAR Anithil Candeth Narayan
Present address Am Feuersteinengraben 24 bei Gerling Göttingen
- 47 RAHMAN Habib ur
Living in Hamburg
- 48 RAM Degobert
Present address Halberstadterstrasse 9 Berlin Halensee
- 49 RAM Kutta
Present address Schulstrasse 6 Helmstedt
- 50 RANGACHARI Madhuvachari
Living in Munich
- 51 RAZA Saad Monai
Living at Grohenzell Nr Munich
- 52 RODRIGUEZ, Joseph Emmanuel
Living in Berlin
- 53 ROY Talachand
Present address Romer Strasse, 305, Bonn
- 54 SARAPATHY, Dr Kanaga
Present address Possartstrasse, 6, Munich
- 55 SARMA, Pappu Balakrishna
Present address Venusbergweg, 48, Bonn
- 56 SEN, Mis Fritz
Living in Graz
- 57 SEN Mr. Oli
Living in Berlin
- 58 SEN GUPTA, Promode Ranjan
Present address Pension Neupast, 219 Walsrodestrasse, Fallingb. ostel
- 59 SHAH, Bhogilal Lallubhai
Living in Berlin
- 60 SHAH, Dr Shantilal Khushaldas
Living in Zweibrücken
- 61 SINGH, Ajit *alias* Mirza Hassan Khan
Present address Samaria Krankenhaus, Bethel bei Bielefeld
- 62 SINGH, Sohan
Living in Munich
- 63 SODHI, Hardyal Singh
Living in Berlin
- 64 SODHI, Kirpal Singh
Present address Beerenstrasse, 24, Berlin-Zehlendorf, West
- 65 SULTAN, Ali Mohammed
Living in Hamburg

- 66 SURESH CHANDRA, Babu
Living at Wesermünde
- 67 TAVADIA, Dr Jehangir C
Present address: Woermannswey 2, Hamburg
- 68 TENDULKAR, Shripad Narayan
Living in Göttingen
- 69 VYAS, Mukund Rai, Labhshankar
Living at Göttingen

List of Indians in Germany, whose whereabouts are unknown

- 70 BHUDRANI, Sobhraj Valiram
- 71 CHANDIRAMANI, Khushnam Ganomal
- 72 CHAUDHARI, Yaswant Laxman
- 73 DUTT, Kail. Edward *alias* Erich Asoke Chand
- 74 JARANI Dewandas Dhalomal
- 75 JHAVERI Kalvirnarai D
- 76 KHAIANI, Virumal Vasomal
- 77 KHOTANI, Virumal Tarachand
- 78 MAHTANI Tuludas Rewachand
- 79 MALIK Abdul Raschid
- 80 MALIK, Abdul Rauf
- 81 MUKHERJI, Gita Kanta
- 82 MUKHERJI Usuli
- 83 NADIR Ali Muna
- 84 NAIDU Chiamanchi Alvanthai
- 85 NANNANI, Perumand Kumachand
- 86 NAVARRAI, Kishin Rnp Chand
- 87 PAL Kusum Ranjan
- 88 RAI Hans
- 89 RAO Dhnapura Subbataya Madhivo
- 90 RODRIGUES, Miss
- 91 SAMANTH Balkrishna *alias* Ballu
- 92 YUNUS, Muhammad

Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member please state whether the Government is aware of the present whereabouts of Dr Barendia Chatterjee brother of Sriyukta Sarojini Naidu, who was last heard of in Russia, and who has not been recently traced?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir, the Government are not aware of his whereabouts. But speaking, if I may say so, not as Government, I may inform my Honourable friend that for the last eight years I have been convinced that he has been dead.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether similar inquiries are made by the Government about Dr Jnanendra Sen Gupta, who was in Germany?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Inquiries are being made. We do not know anything about him, but we shall certainly enquire about the matter.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of announcing the Government's intention of giving all facilities to those exiles in Germany who want to come back to India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, it has been clearly stated in answer to questions in this House and elsewhere that every Indian in Germany can come back to India. There are no restrictions on them to return to

this country. The only difficulty is the difficulty of transport, and that is a common difficulty at many places.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: That is exactly what I am referring to. Will the Honourable Member kindly consider the desirability of introducing facilities so that transport and other difficulties are not put in their way?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know if the Honourable Member suggests that we should charter a ship and send it over. But we are trying our utmost to get them back because it is both in our interest and in their interest, but the shipping companies are not controlled by us and the conditions in Germany are not wholly controlled by us. But as soon as we can possibly manage it, we shall get him back here. I might add that many of them are not willing to come back.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is the Honourable Member not aware that in the priority list of the booking for passages, these Indians are always kept low in the list?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not seen that list.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Is it a fact that the properties of some of those who were internees during the war but since released have been confiscated by the authorities there and therefore they are feeling themselves stranded and unable to come to India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know anything about their properties being confiscated. I have not heard about it, but there is no question of their being stranded there for lack of money to come back.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I ask whether it is possible for any of their relations to go to Germany and meet them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We are prepared to help any such relations who want to go there. I cannot guarantee whether we will be able to get over all the difficulties in the way, but certainly Government will give facilities as far as they can.

FACILITIES TO INDIAN NATIONALS IN FRENCH INDO-CHINA TO SEND MONEY TO INDIA

614 ***Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar:** (a) With reference to the answers to starred questions Nos. 440 and 441, dated the 22nd February, 1946 relating to exchange facilities to Indian Nationals in French Indo-China to send money to their families in India, will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state what arrangements have been made by the Government of India with regard to remittances to India from Saigon and whether any settlement has been arrived at? If so, will the papers be placed on the table of the House?

(b) What is the reason for not removing the blockade and debt settlement with the French Government for the past six months, in spite of the representations by the members of this House, thereby protecting Indian Nationals there and allowing them to bring the accumulated funds for the past seven years?

(c) Was any representation made by Indian Nationals at Saigon to His Majesty's Representative there regarding the removal of blockade on remittances and passage facility to India? If so, what steps have been taken by him to redress their grievances?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) Negotiations are still in progress with the French authorities in Indo-China with a view to enable Indian nationals resident in that country to make remittances to India in advance of the conclusion of a debt settlement agreement between India and

France It is anticipated, however, that this agreement will be concluded very shortly. An offer to release rupees two lakhs out of the frozen assets of the Bank of Indo-China in India to balance remittances up to Rs 25,000 per month from Indian nationals in Indo-China to India was not accepted by the French authorities.

(c) Yes. Regarding remittances the answer is given in the reply to parts (a) and (b) above. As regards passages to India, about 200 Indians wishing to return to this country have been repatriated from Indo-China. 70 others who have since applied for repatriation are expected to leave Saigon by the end of November.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what the total amount of the frozen assets is?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Although I have ventured to answer this question, it really is the business of the Commerce Department to answer such questions. If my Honourable friend will refer to the Honourable the Commerce Member, he will perhaps get more information in these financial matters.

PASSAGE AND OTHER FACILITIES TO INDIAN NATIONALS IN SAIGON

615 *Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state if it is a fact that the British Representative in Saigon told Indian Nationals, who approached him recently that he could not do anything unless the Government of India removed the blockade and entered into an agreement with the French authorities after settling the debt settlement?

(b) Is it a fact that in spite of their representations to the British and French authorities at Saigon regarding their passage facility they are not taking any action at all? If so, why do not the Government of India issue urgent instructions to their Representative there to take immediate steps?

(c) Is it a fact that Indian Nationals in Saigon are allowed to take with them only a sum of Rs 500 when they return to India on account of the blockade while Government have lifted the ban on such remittances to other countries? If so, why do not Government cancel the blockade in view of their sufferings for the past seven years?

(d) Do Government propose to move in the matter since such facilities were given to other Nationalities other than Indian and in view of the British Consul's reply to make necessary arrangements in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Honourable Member presumably refers to remittances. If so the British Consul General at Saigon told the representatives of the Indian community that he had an assurance from the French authorities that the question of remittances to India from Indo-China would be settled once the blocked rupee funds of the Bank of Indo-China were released.

(b) Nearly 200 Indians have returned to India from Indo-China since the end of the war. Others failed to take advantage of opportunities that offered and the shipping position then deteriorated. Nevertheless, it is hoped that 70 Indians whose applications for passages are now pending will, as stated in my reply to the immediately preceding question embark by the end of this month.

(c) The maximum amount allowed is Rs 250 per head. The British Consul General at Saigon has been authorised to advance this sum to each repatriate. The difficulties experienced by Indian nationals in this regard will disappear on the conclusion of a debt settlement agreement with France.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given today to parts (a) and (b) of his immediately preceding question.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

HOUSING INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

616. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) the decisions taken by the last meeting of the Tripartite Standing Labour Committee on the question of the housing of the Industrial Workers,

(b) the decisions taken by the last meeting of the Provincial Ministers' Conference, and

(c) what steps Government of India propose to take on the decisions?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The Tripartite Standing Labour Committee at the last meeting passed a resolution requesting Central and Provincial Governments to set up Housing Boards for promoting the housing of working classes. The resolution also stated that the subsidy of 12½ per cent of the cost of building or Rs. 200 per house whichever was less, offered by the Government of India was inadequate in view of the abnormal increase in the cost of labour and material and suggested that the workers should not be charged more than ten per cent of their earnings as rent, that the deficit should be made good from contributions by Central and Provincial Governments, Local Bodies and Employers and that the Central Government should take immediate steps to determine the respective responsibilities of the various parties.

(b) No formal decision was taken at the last meeting of the Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference, but the matter was informally discussed.

(c) The scheme of subsidy to which I have referred to in my answer to (a) was designed to counter deflationary forces which, it was thought, might set in on the cessation of the war. This fear has proved to be unfounded. Prices continue to be high. Further investigations have shown that the cost of a worker's house with accommodation on the scale approved by the Standing Labour Committee would cost 2,250 exclusive of water supply and sanitary fittings and the cost of land. Any large-scale programme of house building at the prevailing high costs is likely to prove highly inflationary. To relieve the acute shortage of housing experienced in some of the Provincial cities and towns, Provincial Governments have been asked to prepare separate schemes to relieve congestion wherever it is acute and not to attempt at this stage a unified scheme for the whole country. Provincial Governments have also been asked to indicate the share of the cost to be borne respectively by industrialists, municipal authorities and the Provincial Government in regard to these urgent schemes. Central Government will co-ordinate and co-operate in any such measures by rendering reasonable financial assistance, the extent of which will be decided on the merits of each case. Central Government will also be prepared to render technical advice in regard to designs of houses with a view to economising costs. In view of the changed circumstances Government consider that the constitution of a Central Housing Board at this stage would be premature.

TRIPARTITE LABOUR CONFERENCE

617. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) when the last meeting of the Tripartite Labour Conference was held,

(b) when the next meeting of the Conference was due to be held,

(c) when the next Conference is proposed to be held, and

(d) if the Conference was not held at due time, why it was not held?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The last meeting of the Tripartite Labour Conference was held on the 28th of November, 1945.

(b) Following the usual procedure the next meeting should have been held towards the end of this month.

- (c) It is opposed to hold the Conference in March or early April, 1947
(d) Owing to pressure of business the Conference has not been called for this month

LEGISLATION re STANDING ORDERS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

618. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) when the legislation for standing orders for industrial establishments was passed, and

(b) whether the Act has come into operation, if not, why there has been delay, and when the Act is expected to be in operation?

The Honourable Shri Jagivan Ram: The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act having been passed by the Indian Legislature during the budget session 1946 and having received the assent of the Governor General on 23rd April, 1946, came into force with effect from that date

AWARD OF ADJUDICATOR FOR GRIEVANCES OF EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH

619. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have recently appointed an Adjudicator to consider the grievances of the employees of the Government of India Press at Aligarh,

(b) whether the award of the Adjudicator has been given, if so, what the terms of the award are, and

(c) whether the award has been given effect to?

The Honourable Shri Jagivan Ram: (a) Yes

(b) and (c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given earlier to Starred Question No 611

SALE OF COPIES OF THE REPORTS OF REGE COMMITTEE

620. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) whether copies of all the Reports of the Rege Committee are available for sale,

(b) if copies of all the Reports are not available, why inadequate number of copies were printed, and

(c) when the copies will be available in sufficient numbers?

The Honourable Shri Jagivan Ram: (a) Of the 34 *ad hoc* reports and the main report of the Rege Committee 32 *ad hoc* reports have been or are being placed on sale. The stock of twelve of these reports has run out

(b) and (c) It was obviously impossible to forecast accurately the public demand which, in some cases, has turned out to be more than estimated.

Arrangements have been made for reprinting the reports and copies are expected to be made available next month.

SHOOTING OF AN INDIAN LABOURER BY EUROPEAN MANAGER OF THE SANTAK TEA ESTATE IN ASSAM

621. *Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if the Government of India have received any report about the incident which took place about three months ago in the Santak Tea Estate in the District of Sibsagar in Assam in which an Indian labourer was shot dead by an European Manager of the Estate?

(b) In view of the special condition of Tea Garden labour in Assam, does the Honourable Member propose to visit some Indian and European Tea Estate in that Province and study the conditions there first hand?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) A report has been called for from the Assam Government

(b) I would certainly like to take in early opportunity to acquaint myself with the conditions of the Tea garden labour in Assam

APPOINTMENTS TO INDIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

622 Sreejati Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state whether appointments will be invited from candidates not belonging to the existing services under the Government of India for appointments under the proposed Indian Diplomatic Services? If so, will selection of such candidates be initially made by the Federal Public Service Commission?

(b) What will be the minimum and maximum age limits of such candidates?

(c) When will recruitment be made to this service from outsiders?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (c) It will be necessary to recruit to the Indian Foreign Service some candidates from sources other than the existing services. Details such as age limit, the method of selection and the terms of the service are now being worked out and a public announcement will be made as soon as possible. Recruitment will start as soon as those preliminary details are completed.

EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEE EVACUEES IN INDIA

623 Mr. Manu Zubeida: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state how many refugees, evacuees and stateless people of European extraction are there in India and have Government complete information on the subject?

(b) How many persons received monetary support or allowance during the war period?

(c) What was the amount paid per individual or family?

(d) What was the total amount of expenditure incurred?

(e) Is any such amount being paid now to any class of people and if so to whom and why?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) the total number of Refugees, evacuees and stateless people of European extraction who came to India is, approximately, 12,000

(b) On an average, about 6,900 evacuees have received assistance during each year since the scheme of assistance came into force

(c) The amount of assistance payable to individuals or families is graded on the basis of their pre-evacuation income. A maximum limit of 75 per cent of the pre-evacuation income or Rs. 350 whichever is less, is generally imposed. Evacuees whose income does not exceed Rs. 150 per mensem are, however, eligible on the merits of their cases to draw allowances up to the level of their pre-evacuation income. Statements showing the scales of assistance in force at present for those residing in the Evacuee Camps and outside the Camps are laid on the table of the House.

(d) A sum of approximately Rs. 1½ crores has been spent on these evacuees from the beginning of the War up to the end of 1944-45. This expenditure is not however, debitable to the Government of India. The amount spent on Balkans and Maltese evacuees is debitable to His Majesty's Government and that spent on Polish evacuees to UNRRA.

(e) Yes. Financial assistance is still being given to Poles, Maltese and Balkans, etc., since they are as yet unable to return to the countries from which they were evacuated.

Statement I.—Showing the scale of Maintenance Advance payable to evacuees not residing in the British Evacuee or Polish Camps

Estimated normal income	Single adult earner or person in receipt of remittance	Previous column plus wife or adult dependent	Child
A	B	C	D
1—2	1	4	4
2—5	15	5	6
5—100	35	50	8
10—150	40	60	10
15—200	45	70	11
20—300	55	85	11
30—500	75	100	12
40—500	80	120	13
50—1000	90	140	14
60—1000	100	170	16
75—unlimited	110	200	20

Provided that

(a) in the case of persons whose pre-evacuation income exceeded Rs. 150 p.m. advances payable to them on account of a single earner and his dependants should not exceed 75 per cent of the normal income or remittance or Rs. 350 p.m. whichever is less

(b) in no case should maintenance advance including school advance exceed the pre-evacuation income of remittance.

Statement II.—Showing the scale of maintenance allowance admissible in the British Evacuee Camps

MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES

	Maintenance allowance	Dependants allowance	Personal advance	General increase
	2	3	4	5
	R	R	R	Rs.
Single Adult	15	10	20	15
Married Couple	70	20	30	30
Dependant: over 12 and upto a Total of 3	30	10	5	13
Dependant: over 12 and over a total of 3	25	5	5	10
Children 6—11 years and upto total of 3	18	5	5	8
Children 6—11 years and over a total of 3	15	5	5	7
Children under 6 years	15	5	5	7

Statement III —Showing the scale of maintenance allowance for Polish Refugees in Kolhapur.

	Maintenance allowance	Dearness allowance	Pocket money	Total
	Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P
(a) Adults	35 0 0	8 12 0	10 0 0	53 12 0
(b) Children of 12 and over	35 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	45 0 0
(c) Children from 6 to over 12	35 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	45 0 0
(d) Children under 6	25 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	35 0 0

Polish Children in the Polish Children's Camp, Balachadi, are getting Rs 50 p.m. each and their maintenance allowance.

FREE SUPPLY OF VERNACULAR TRANSLATION OF DEBATES OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

624. *Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether Government have made any provision for publishing vernacular translation of the proceedings of the Central Legislative Bodies for the use of the public not knowing English?

(b) Do Government propose to give due publicity to the proceedings of the Legislature by supplying them free of cost to all first class Municipalities in India to start with?

(c) What will be the cost to Government if this proposal was accepted?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No

(b) No The proceedings are fully reported in the press in the Indian languages and are thus given adequate publicity. The proceedings of the Central Legislature are on sale at a very low cost of -/5/- per copy and no doubt, all first class municipalities could afford to purchase the proceedings if they so desire.

(c) It is difficult to estimate the cost as the number of issues is dependent on the number of sessions held in a year and the number of meetings held during each session.

POLITICAL RELATIONS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WITH NEPAL GOVERNMENT

624-A. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state the political relation of the Government of India with the Nepal Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not quite clear what the Honourable Member means. Our relations with the Nepal Government are friendly and it is hoped to develop closer contacts. As Nepal is a neighbour country closely associated with India culturally and otherwise it is obviously desirable for the two Governments and countries to have close and friendly relations.

India's political relations with the Nepal Government have been conducted through the British Legation at Kathmandu. The British Minister and his staff are chosen from the Indian Services.

PERMISSION TO MEMBERS OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO MOVE IN EXCLUDED AND TRIBAL AREAS OF ASSAM, MANIPUR, KHASI AND JAINTHIA HILL STATES

624-B. *Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether the Honourable Members of the Constituent Assembly are allowed to move freely in the Excluded and Tribal Areas of Assam in the Manipur State and semi-dependent states of Khasi and Jaintia Hills without taking any previous permit from the Political Agent of the Manipur State, Political Officers of the Excluded Areas and of Khasi and Jaintia Hills?

If not, do the Government of India propose to issue necessary directions to enable the Members of the Constituent Assembly to move freely and acquaint themselves with the conditions in these areas for facilities of discussion in the Constituent Assembly?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Members of the Constituent Assembly are certainly free to move about in the Excluded Areas of Assam. As regards the Tribal Areas every facility will be arranged for all members of the Advisory Committee to acquaint themselves with the conditions in those areas. As regards Manipur and the Khasi States, enquiries are being made and a statement will in due course be placed on the table of the House.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TENDER NOTICE FOR ARTICLES OF INDIAN MANUFACTURE BY THE CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

83. Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please refer to the tender notice issued by the Controller of Printing and Stationery for articles chiefly of Indian manufacture for consumption during 1946-47 and state

(a) whether any quotation for wire staples of indigenous manufacture was received against the call for tender, if so, how many were received,

(b) whether any sample of indigenous variety was found acceptable, if so, why imported wire staples representing the total Government requirements for twelve months were purchased immediately after the decision of the tender, in one lot disregarding the fact that stores to be purchased, as advertised, must be chiefly of Indian manufacture,

(c) whether it is a fact that amongst the tenders for wire staples there were at least one or two firms who have installed requisite machinery for the manufacture of wire staples in India; and

(d) whether any quotation for indigenous wire staples which were found acceptable on test was rejected (i) for higher price, (ii) or any other reason, if for (i) was any negotiation made with the firm to reasonably lower the rate, or if for (ii) the grounds for rejection may kindly be stated?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes. Three quotations purporting to be for supply of indigenous varieties were received.

(b) Yes. Out of the three firms, the sample of one firm was found satisfactory but the price was higher than for imported wire staples. Only requirements for about nine months were purchased in one lot—presumably to take advantage of available stocks. The policy regarding preference to be given to goods of Indian manufacture is stated in Rule 3 of the Rules regulating the purchase of stationery and printing stores for the public service.

(c) Yes. Two firms were reported to have installed machinery for the manufacture of wire staples. But on an inspection by the Progress Inspector, it was found that no elaborate machinery had been installed particularly for this purpose by the firm whose sample was satisfactory.

(d) As stated in reply to part (b) the sample of one firm was found to be satisfactory but the tender was rejected on account of high price. No negotiations were conducted with this firm for lowering its rate. The samples of the other firms were rejected on the ground of poor quality.

FALSE PROPAGANDA IN TRIBAL AREAS re BOMBING

84. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state if false propaganda was made in the tribal territories that bombing was ordered by the Interim Government and that the Government of India wanted to cede their territory?

(b) What persons and organisations were responsible for such propaganda?
(c) Have Government taken any steps to put a stop to such propaganda in the future?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India have no information beyond what has appeared in the Press. Certain persons in the tribal territories appeared to be under the impression that

the bombing was ordered by the Interim Government. How this impression was created and who was responsible for it, is not known. As a matter of fact the bombing was ordered several weeks before the Interim Government took office and it was stopped very soon after. Government do not propose to pursue the matter further.

CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY

85. Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state

(a) whether both the Controller and the Deputy Controller of Printing and Stationery are non-technical men, and

(b) whether Government contemplate the desirability of appointing men with technical knowledge in the matter to these posts, if so, when, if not, why not?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes

(b) Both these posts are of an administrative character and technical knowledge is not an essential qualification. Whenever vacancies occur, Government consider the suitability of all likely candidates, both technical and non-technical and select the person who appears to be most suitable.

NUMBER OF STRIKES IN INDUSTRIES IN PROVINCES.

86. Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) the number of strikes, industry by industry and province by province during the period January 1946 to September 1946,

(b) the number of workers involved in these strikes,

(c) the number of hours of labour lost in these strikes, and

(d) the amount of loss to the national wealth?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a), (b) and (c). A statement containing the information desired by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House. In regard to part (c), the statement gives the number of man-days lost. Information regarding man-hours lost is not available.

(d) I regret I am unable to assess the loss.

Statement showing the number of strikes for the period January 1946 to September 1946, industry by industry and province by province, indicating also the number of workers involved and the number of man-days lost

Total No of strikes	No of workers involved	No of man-days lost	Number						
			By Industry						
			Cotton, Woollen & silk	Jute	Engineering	Railways	Mines	Miscellaneous	Total
1,435	18,17,727	89,25,251	516	112	134	61	9	603	1,435

of Strikes

By Province

Ajmer Merwara	Assam	Bengal	Bihar	Bombay	C. P. & Berar	Delhi	Madras	Sind	U.P.	Total
6	2	408	71	489	85	24	219	39	92	1,435

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT OF CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ASSURING EQUAL TREATMENT TO INDIAN LABOURERS

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the House been drawn to the news flashed from New York on the 5th of November 1946, which has been published in the daily *Amstela Times* of the 6th November, 1946, to the effect that among other documents a letter in which the Union Government invited the Indians to send their nationals to South Africa on assurance that they would be treated on par with the Europeans there, has been recently sent to the Indian Delegation at New York?

(b) If so will the Government be pleased to state, (i) if the information is correct, (ii) where the letter was found, (iii) if it was ever produced anywhere in connection with discussions about Indians in South Africa and (iv) if it was purposely withheld by the former Government of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) (i) One of the documents taken by the Indian Delegation to United Nations Organisation is a letter sent by the then Government of the Cape of Good Hope dated 1855 requesting the Government of India to send Indian labour to Natal. The letter explains the conditions under which the Indian labourers were expected to work in Natal, though the assurances given are not in the exact terms quoted in the press message.

(ii) In the old records of the Government of India among which considerable research was carried out on the present occasion

(iii) No, so far as the Government are aware. There was apparently no occasion to produce it in connection with any previous discussions with South Africa.

(iv) No, Sir

SPECIAL MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) I beg to move

"That the Bill further to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1872, for certain purposes, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Mr Jogendra Nath Mandal, Lt Col Dr J C Chatterjee, Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr Vadilal Lalubhai, Sjt N V Gadgil, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Sri A K Menon, Mr Madandhari Singh, Mr Leslie Gwilt, Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, Sri Jagannath Das, Sree Satyapriya Banerjee and the mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr President, not only I ask the indulgence of the House, but the very serious attention of the House to the question that this Bill brings forth before this House. The question before the House is a very vital one and that question is whether the Hindu wife, the partner in Hindu marriage, is a sentient human being, with ideas of human happiness and misery. That is the point that I want to bring before this House. All the other things which have been alleged with regard to this Bill are in my opinion unimportant. Not only the Hindu woman is not dependent on the pity of the House, or the grace of the House, but I think that she has earned a right to be considered as a comrade, specially because of the comradeship of the fight that she put up in the recent fight for freedom. You will find in the book of the distinguished Leader of this House that he also is grateful to the Indian woman for the fight that she put up and the comradeship

[Dr G. V. Deshmukh]

that she displayed in the recent fight for freedom that Congress waged in the cause of India. I am very glad to see the Congress in the Treasury Benches and we of the Congress are committed to this, that we will give equal right to all the rest of the minorities in India, irrespective of sex, race, caste, creed or colour. I say that the duty of the present government is to see that justice is done to the Indian woman. I do not deny that there are many objections raised to this Bill—that it is inopportune, that it is badly drafted, that it is incomplete, that it upsets the settled way of the Hindu sacramental marriage, that it interferes with the law of succession, and with the status of a Hindu in a joint family as a coparcener. I do not deny that there are certain defects in this Bill as it has been drafted. I shall be dealing shortly with some of the main defects that have been pointed out and I hope to prove to the House that those defects are not insuperable, that the difficulties, if there are any, can be surmounted and that we have to do our duty in spite of these defects. After all you cannot change an unjust system that has been going on for thousands of years without upsetting something or other. After all if a big stone is lying somewhere for an indefinite period, for ages and if you turn the stone over, so that there might be a little more sunlight admitted under the stone, you are bound to disturb many of the worms and many of the undesirable things which have taken shelter under that stone. You cannot help it. As I mentioned earlier, in view of the comradeship and the fight that the Hindu woman has put up in the cause of the independence of India I think the time has come when these disadvantages which have taken shelter for untold centuries, should be disturbed, and if that happens, it is no business of mine, and it should be no business of anybody, who has come in this House that he should pay particular attention if these minor inconveniences arise.

With regard to the objections that have been raised, I find that there are mainly three objections and I am going to deal with these three objections. The first objection raised is that Hindu marriage is a sacrament and you cannot change it from a sacrament to a contract. Sir, Honourable Members will remember that the other day even such a distinguished Hindu as the Honourable Rajaji in dealing with another Bill said that it was not certain that Hindu marriage was entirely a sacrament and there was no question of contract with regard to a Hindu marriage. I share that opinion, I do not think that Hindu marriage is entirely a sacrament.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (Member for Education and Arts) Sir, I may explain? I did not say that the Hindu marriage was not a sacrament. I said that not only Hindu marriages but all marriages are sacramental, and also contractual.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: If that is his opinion that it is entirely sacramental

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The word 'entirely' is wrong. I said all marriages were sacramental including Hindu marriages, I said all marriages were contractual including Hindu marriages.

Dr G. V. Deshmukh: I am very happy to get that explanation. One has only to look at the Vedic marriage service of the Hindus, and let him say that there is no contractual basis in this sacramental marriage. In the marriage service of Hindus the bridegroom and bride say, "We will do this, we will bring up a family, we will live for a hundred years, we will prosper", etc. And what is the meaning of this if this is not to a certain extent contractual? Not only that, what is the idea of *saptapadi*, the seven religious steps which are taken in marriage? Every Hindu knows,—and if he does not know he ought to know,—that with the seventh step the bride becomes the friend of the bridegroom,—the word used being "*sakha*". Sir, I do not want to upset my Hindu friends by criticising in any way the religious side, I hope I will not be misunderstood. So far as sacrament is concerned, I have the greatest respect, but my complaint is that the Hindus should think of it more seriously as a sacrament than they are conveniently doing at present. It is the same ceremony for both bridegroom and

bride, and yet a sacrament binds one party and not the other. That is my objection. I say you do not pay sufficient regard to your sacramental and religious views. The bridegroom passing through the same sacramental rites can marry as often as he likes but the bride going through the same rites cannot marry more than once, not only when the husband is living but even after the husband is dead, because it is supposed that the marriage is binding not only in this world but also in the other world.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Sir, on a point of order, may I know if the Honourable Member is moving the Bill that I have here in my hand or any other Bill about monogamy or divorce?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I am moving the Bill that has been circulated to Members of the House. I am not thinking of moving any other Bill. I said these are the objections raised in the public opinion which has come to us, and I am discussing those objections.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Sir, I am really not able to see any connection between the subject which the Honourable Member is discussing and the Bill that I have with me. It may be my stupidity, but I do not see any monogamy or divorce in this Bill.

Mr. President: The Honourable Mover is a doctor and therefore cannot perhaps explain the law. The point, so far as I can see, is this, this Bill seeks to amend the Special Marriage Act and that Act provides for monogamy and divorce. Therefore he is discussing those points.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: That is right, Sir, I am thankful to you. I am surprised that these objections should be raised by an experienced person like the Honourable Rajan. Surely he knows that in the Special Marriage Act there is a clause on monogamy and also a clause on divorce, and so if I have brought forward a Bill to amend the Special Marriage Act we have got to consider those two points. And if the Honourable Member will go through the opinions received he will find that a large body of opinion is of the view that this means bringing in monogamy and divorce, and upsetting the sacramental rite.

I have already explained to the House the object of the Bill. For the satisfaction of those who are very technical with regard to these measures I will repeat that the object of the Bill is to modify the Act. But it must be for some purpose, and I frankly admit, that the purpose is monogamy and modifying the form of divorce. I wish to be frank with the House and I do not wish to be unnecessarily interrupted. And the interruptions so far—I say with all respect—have not been quite relevant.

Sir, I began by explaining the object of the Bill. I also pointed out the objections which have been raised to the Bill. I am going to deal with three main objections and leave the House to deal with the other objections. The first objection is that somehow or other it is irreligious, I think it is a valid objection because among many religious Hindus there is a genuine feeling that it is disturbing the sacramental ceremony. With regard to that my point is not against viewing marriage as a sacrament, but my complaint is that it is not looked at in a sufficiently religious light. Every Hindu will tell you that we have about 25 or 30 sacraments. The life of a Hindu from birth to death and also thereafter is nothing but a sacrament. Now we find that every sacrament has gone with this one exception of marriage, and that also particularly in the case of girls only. So even according to religious opinion you can modify so-called sacraments. I wish to point out that this sacrament is being applied unjustly, so that objections based on that ground may not influence my Honourable friends. I think we have done wrongly in interpreting this sacramental idea in different ways in regard to the sexes. If it is a sacrament and if the girl can be married only once, on the same analogy the bridegroom also should not be allowed to marry more than once. But if you allow that in the case of boys I see no objection—however sacramentally minded one may be—to allowing it in the case of girls also, on the principle of equality and on the principle that the girl is also a human being. Now, Sir, there is one thing more. To those who are religiously inclined and who feel such a great

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deal about sacrament, let me point out something to them and I hope they will devote still more of their ideas to this idea of sacrament. I do not want to dabble in politics when I am dealing with a social measure. What has happened? After this sacrament, the status of the wife is absolutely unchangeable, nothing can change it. Unfortunately in this country you must have read recently of forcible conversions. Now, what I want to say is, that if there have been forcible conversions, after all, they are human, they are artificial, therefore whatever forcible conversions have taken place, if we have faith in sacramental theory of marriage, the Hindus who have been converted cannot be said to be outside the pale of Hindu society. In spite of forcible conversions, those who have faith in sacraments must admit that in spite of forcible conversions, they do not cease to be Hindus.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Clutter N. Muhammadan Rural): They do not.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will recommend this idea of sacrament to all those *Mandals*, *Saivaists* and *Mataikuppadias* who have sent down their opinion on this Bill. I give them a better occupation, instead of finding objections if they can concentrate their energies on Hindu sacramental side, let them pronounce that whatever you may do, a Hindu particularly a Hindu girl who is married, let there be forcible conversion or whatever you like, her religion cannot be changed and she continues to be a Hindu.

An Honourable Member: They have pronounced like that.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: If that is the attitude taken by them, then I welcome it. I go one step further. I am logically considering the whole plan. I hope you, Sir, will not consider my remarks irrelevant. What is the reason for the whole enmity against Hinduism? I am suggesting this measure not only for Hindu-Muslim unity, but also for the purpose of achieving homogeneity and amicable relations for the whole country. You do not find so much enmity between other religions. Everybody seems to have a certain amount of enmity against Hindu religion. I have given a certain amount of thought to this. Why should this state of affairs continue or even exist? It is for this reason that we are not a proselytising religion. We are all born Hindus and as soon as under some excuse or other, the Hindus are contaminated, then immediately we ourselves—the more so than the members of the other religion, we ourselves are so anxious to drop them out of the Hindu faith. If a Hindu is a born Hindu, then no amount of artificial conversion can make him cease to be a Hindu. If all the religious bodies should pronounce, that whatever it may be, a Hindu is born a Hindu, and for all time he will remain a Hindu, if all the legal luminaries who have given the opinion that a Hindu marriage is a sacramental marriage should give the opinion that a Hindu, once he is born a Hindu, whatever may happen to him would never cease to be a Hindu, if such an opinion is pronounced, then I say a lot of enmity between Hinduism and other religions will disappear for the simple reasons that forcible conversion will not be valid. All this spite against Hinduism will disappear. I commend this suggestion to all the religious bodies and legal persons who have studied a good deal about sacrament. If you use sacrament in this sense, then I for one, will go perhaps more than my religious minded friends. That is so far as one objection to this Bill is concerned.

The second objection is to the clause which says that the registered date of marriage will be from the date of registration. Naturally therefore, the old sacramental marriage would cease. I find a good deal of prejudice imported in this view. You cannot continue as married parties under two systems. Either you must be registered if you want to take advantages of registration and therefore you must either be registered or must continue the sacramental marriage. I suggested in my Bill after a good deal of legal consultation, a basis that could be had in Bombay. I suggested that the registration will be the date from the date of status of registered marriage. Unfortunately I wanted to be logical and I said that the old marriage would be deemed to have been eliminated. It was

not an ignorant or a hasty proposition that I had put down in this clause. To the best of my ability I consulted the best legal opinion in Bombay and they said, you cannot continue under two systems of marriage. Therefore one marriage ceases. If you suggest that it should be the date from the time of sacramental marriage, then what would happen to the children born in between. Will they be coparceners, will they have the personal law of succession applied to them, or will the law of survivorship be applied to them, or will the law of succession be applied to them? If you carry this date back to the date of the previous marriage, you are raising complications. Therefore you had better make it in your Bill that the date of the registered marriage will be from the date of registration. I find that in the Hindu code they have suggested that civil marriage should date from the date of the first marriage. I do not say that I had not seen this difficulty. As a matter of fact I had consulted legal opinion on this. But the point is if in this Bill I had suggested the same opinion that is given in the Hindu Code, then those objections that I have put before the House and which were pointed out to me, those would have appeared in the opinion. Therefore whether you have registration from the date of the civil marriage or whether you have it from the date of the first marriage, the question of provision for children is a difficulty which is there. Not only that. It was also explained to me that so far as succession is concerned, you have given many legal fictions and one of the legal fictions is the property that is invested cannot be divested. That is why I suggested that civil marriage will be from the date of registration and the children who are born before the date of civil marriage will be ruled by the personal law of succession. That is coparcenership, and survivorship of the children who are born after the marriage will be by law of succession.

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar Non-Muhammadan) Should the father be considered dead after the civil marriage?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: You have this objection even now. If he is considered dead in the case of civil marriage, is he not considered dead even now?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I am sorry, Sir, I should have addressed the Chair. But you, Sir, have no such difficulties to understand. That is why I was addressing these remarks to my friend. That is why under the circumstances I put the date for civil marriage as the date of registration. Where it is a question of not having looked after provision for children, one-third of the opinions are condemning the Bill. Where does this arise? Anyhow if you want a change, if the principle is accepted, I find the principle is accepted in the majority of opinions, then, whether you have the date for civil marriage from the date of the original marriage or from the date of registration, these difficulties are there and it is for us to see how to get over these difficulties. This is so far as provision for children is concerned. The breaking of marriage is supposed to be revolting to sacramental marriage. Incidentally, in explaining the position of children, I have also pointed out that there is no such thing as breaking of the marriage. Till this is registered as a civil marriage, whatever your status in marriage was continues. There is no period at which you are unmarried, there is no question of bastards or prostitution, it cannot arise, either you are sacramentally married or, as soon as the sacramental status ceases immediately afterwards your status is registered according to the civil marriage. Therefore the question of break of marriage does not arise. Personally I have no objection whatever the changes may take place but I am glad that I gave notice of this Bill and it is for this reason. I find that according to the opinion of the Bombay Bar Associations and the opinion of Hindu Social Reform Association, a very important body in Bombay—they have pointed out that this 1872 law has been very anomalous and bad, that this idea of inheritance and status of the party in the joint family should not have been tagged on, it should not have been associated with the idea of civil marriage. I think that representations were made.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) The Bombay Bar Association recommends deletion of section 15-A.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Wait a minute. It has drawn the attention of the legal profession at any rate towards the anomalies of the Act of 1872. If this Bill does not do anything more, and if it has only done that, and if my legal friends will pay proper attention to it, I will feel that have done more than could be done under the circumstances. (Interruption) You can speak afterwards. It has been pointed out a long time ago, as early as 1930 and even in 1935, that this law of 1872, the Special Marriage Act, should be amended, and amended on the lines that the personal law of inheritance and the other personal laws need not be changed, because somebody chooses to be married under this Civil Marriage Act. The House will not be doing a wrong thing in utilising this opportunity to modify the law of 1872 which after all we have been having for the last fifty years and in our bovine way we seem to go on with it, we paid no attention to it, and as soon as something is put forward then the legal profession, or some of them, seem to wake up and they find objections against any measure that is suggested and again they go sleep. I do not say that there are not others in the legal profession who bring to proper notice the defects in the existing law, and that it should be modified, but then I take it, it is no part of the legal profession to look after the amendment of laws. (Interruption) You are a lawyer.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I want to give a compliment to the legal profession and just at that time they will interrupt me, and when I am condemning them they seem to keep quiet. I do not understand this mentality. I wanted to tell them they were right. They should merely point out the defects of the law and the legislature being there it should be the duty of the legislature and the members of the Indian Legislative Assembly to amend or modify or make the law good, if it is bad. It does not matter whoever wants to take it upon himself, whether he understands about the law or not. That is not the point. The point is this. Very often as you know in all professions, including the legal profession, it is always the laymen who bring in reforms. In my own profession I can tell you that all progress in medicine has not been entirely done by men of the medical profession. Indeed quite a few reforms have been brought forward by laymen. To give you a case in point, Pasteur was not a medical man. He was not a practitioner at all, and yet the whole course of medicine has been revolutionised by Pasteur. Similarly all the modern drugs such as sulphamide and others have not been discovered by the medical profession. Therefore I am not frightened that because I am not a legal man I cannot bring forward legislation to improve the state of society. Indeed I am encouraged. Legal men take the expert's view, which is the narrower view. Very often it is an ignorant view, and therefore in the circumstances, instead of being discouraged, I find encouragement in bringing forward this legislation, and thanks to the courtesy of the House and of the legal Members of the Government of India, like Sir Nripindianath Sircar and Sir Asoka Roy, I have been able to do something in the matter.

Therefore there was no intention of any modification of the marriage, not even the intention of changing the law of succession. The Bill does not want to interfere with any sacrament. But what it certainly does is to give freedom to a married partner where she is led to think that her life is a misery. It is no good denying the fact that this has been brought in for the two main provisions, and that is the provision of monogamy, if she has no right to marry more than once, then certainly during the time that she is pinned down in this way, the man also will not marry any other person, and the corollary of this naturally is that if both consider that the marriage is unhappy, the divorce should take place. My friends who have read these opinions will see that it is mentioned in these opinions that this is a backdoor method, an indirect method of bringing in divorce. I cannot be charged with using backdoor methods. So early as 1939 I had given notice of a Divorce Bill—a Bill for regular open divorce, unfortunately we could not proceed with that Bill because my party then decided that we should not attend the Assembly. What the fate of that Bill would have been I cannot tell you; therefore it cannot be charged that I want to bring in anything now by indirect or backdoor methods. But this much is certain, that a frontal attack like this, or shall I say a reasonable suggestion like this the Hindu society is not prepared to

accept, and therefore if a large society like this is not prepared to accept in a direct way and if the measure is useful, then all that you can do is to bring it in some way or the other, and that is the reason why I have brought forward this Bill

I think I have answered all the three main objections to this Bill and I think I will be only doing my duty and enlightening this House if I give them very shortly the genesis of this Bill, as to why I have brought it forward. As I told you, I brought forward a direct Bill for divorce. Somehow or other it was not acceptable to the Hindu society and there were other social Bills also on the agenda, and some other colleagues of mine were also anxious for the social reform of the Hindu society. Soon afterwards, the Hindu Code Committee was formed and it is common knowledge that that committee was at first formed merely for the sake of inheritance and succession, because it seems to me that although we the Hindus are considered the most religious body in the whole world, it seemed to me that we were more interested on the succession side than on any other side, so far as religion was concerned. When his state of affairs existed, I suggested then, to the Law Member that if you are going to have a committee appointed for this succession to property, then why not send all the Bills which were before the Assembly to the same committee? That is how the Hindu Code Committee was constituted. The Hindu Code Committee did very useful work, but what was the position of us who wanted to have some kind of reforms? The Hindu Code Committee produced this Hindu Code, which is very good, complete, academical and you may say almost something which should be referred to whenever there is any difficulty. Soon afterwards when the Committee was in Lahore I read in the papers that about 10,000 people invaded the town hall.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Not people, they were women.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I am very glad you have mentioned that. Ten thousand women invaded the Town Hall and they did not agree to the Code Committee. I am particularly glad that my Honourable friend, Mr. Gole, has pointed out this incident, because it was Mr. Gole and lawyers like him who brought forward the excuse that we should not do anything piecemeal and we should wait for the Hindu Code Committee.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-official): There are others who do not plead the same thing.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: This argument is only for those who plead this excuse. But they always change their argument. They say it should not be piecemeal and we should wait for the Committee's Report, and then when it suits them they say this is uprooting the whole Hindu society, and therefore you cannot expect the Hindu society to swallow the whole of this Code, and therefore you must go gradually. Now, what is going to be the position of some of us who are anxious that some kind of a reform should be brought in? I thought it was quite impossible to bring forward a fresh measure. In view of the fact that women were instigated by Sanatanists and by orthodox persons and they were tempted to go and attack the places where the committee was meeting, I thought that there was no hope. (Interruption) Don't tell me that women understood anything about it.

Mr. P. B. Gole: You understand it only.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I make bold to say on the floor of this House that all these women were instigated.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: We had heard that they were the instigators!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: and not only that, but they were given wrong advice. I can frankly tell you what happened in Bombay. When this Bill was sent round for their opinion, the women frankly admitted that they did not understand the legal implications of this measure. They approached some of these distinguished solicitors and lawyers who pointed out all these disadvantages and the women got so thoroughly frightened that they started making representations.

Mr. P. B. Gole: They have made representations in this case

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: According to what they have been told

Even with regard to this Bill, Sir, I will give you an instance of what was pointed out to them. One of the lawyers, whom they consulted, happened to be a friend of mine. I asked him how did you do it, and he said what am I to do, they were frightened and that is the main reason why they attacked the Town Hall and other places. He said the women are told 'supposing the husband says in the beginning go and register, it is a good thing both for you and for him, and later on when you have registered the marriage thinking that it is in your interest, he may divorce you because there is a provision for that, so this is a trap for you'. I should like to know whether there is any Hindu woman who will not be frightened when she is told the whole thing in this manner. Naturally she will oppose the whole thing. These are the ways in which things are done. When I saw that there was going to be opposition to the Hindu Code and when I saw that Hindus will not accept a fresh Bill, what could a person like me and like some of my other friends, who are anxious to leave the society a little better than we found it, do? They can only do one thing. They can put in amending Bills. I know from technical point of view people will say that it is not correct and it should not be done in this manner. But we are prepared to take the odds and proceed forward with such measures.

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member likely to take some time?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. This is a very vital question.

Mr. President: Today being Friday, the House will adjourn at 12.15, and re-assemble at 2.15 P.M.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch Till Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock. Mr. President (the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Could I make one request? I have been asked to add three more names to the Select Committee in addition to those already there. That is the general request of the House. They are the Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari, Sri S. T. Adityan and Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech. I have not yet put his motion to the House.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: So I have brought to the notice of the House what is really the principle of the Bill. I have also dealt with the main objections to the Bill. My own opinion is that all these objections are not insuperable and that it should not be beyond the intelligence, goodwill and sympathy of this House to surmount these objections with regard to this Bill. I feel as I said at the beginning of my speech that the Hindu woman has won these rights for herself—that of being treated on an equal footing with men. And so far as the Congress is concerned it is committed to the principle. So far as comradeship in the freedom's battle is concerned, out of gratefulness we have to give her this right. I therefore commend my Bill to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1872 for certain purposes be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari, Lt. Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Khan Mohiuddin Yunus Khan, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Vadhval Lalubhai, Sri N. V. Girdar, Pundit Balkrishna Sharma, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sardar Mangal Singh, Shri Sri Ammu Swaminathan, Sri A. K. Menon, Mr. Madandhai Singh, Mr. Leslie Gault, Mr. Sreenika Sekhri, Shri S. Jagannath Das, Sree Sat. Priya Banerjee, Sri S. T. Adityan, Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma and the mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I rise not to oppose but to support his Bill. The interruptions that I was attempting to make were intended to explain the object of the Bill as it stands rather than pursue any question of

divorce, monogamy or other reforms which we might desire, but which are not the points involved here primarily. The Bill appears to me to have a simple object. There is a Special Marriage Act of 1872, now in force which provides for members of certain communities a form of marriage through which they can go by force of the Civil Law, whatever may be the orthodox opinion in respect of it. The law as it stands enables any bride and bridegroom, Hindu, or Buddhist or Sikh or Jain, provided they satisfy certain conditions, to go to a Registrar and have their marriage solemnized and registered, and thereafter certain incidents follow with regard to succession and other matters. Any arguments or objections that can be raised by Honourable Members or others to the Special Marriage Act of 1872, from the Hindu or other orthodox point of view, cannot now usefully be raised because it is already on the Statute Book and any law moved to annul that Act may be an occasion for bringing up such objections. But as things stand today, Hindus as well as Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains, can have recourse to the civil form of marriage with all its incidents without any difficulty. The present Bill is intended to remove only one disability and that is that any person who has already gone through a marriage which is doubtful in validity on account of the rigid code of Hindus or the others, can have recourse to this registration. Under the present law he cannot do it. Under the existing code, any man who has gone through a marriage with a woman according to the Hindu rights, to which possible objections could be raised on account of its being an inter-caste marriage or for other reasons, he cannot make the required declaration under the present Special Marriage Act to validate his union that he was not married, because it would be not quite correct for him to say that he was not married. This Bill seeks to enable, in short, persons who have gone through a marriage ceremony or form or contract already, to go through it again, in accordance with the Special Marriage Act, the parties being the same.

The Bill proposes to permit two persons who have already undergone through a marriage ceremony to go through it again in the civil form proposed here. Now there is nothing very wonderfully difficult or objectionable in this proposal. If a man, A, and a Woman B have gone through a marriage according to the Hindu rites, they are not allowed under the present law to go to the Registrar after a lapse of some time and have their marriage registered because they would not be unmarried persons. This Bill proposes that such persons can have their marriage registered. The only point that arises is this. If two persons are married according to Hindu rites, and if later their marriage is registered under this law that is proposed to be passed, what are the rights and the status of the children born in the interval. Since the interval may be as short as one day or as long as even ten years, in the latter case it is possible that there may be issues which were born out of the original marriage and there may be issues that may be born after this registration. That is sought to be solved in this Bill in a proposed section which suggests that the previous marriage shall be declared as dissolved on this registration. That is a point for much objection and I think that that can be disposed of in the Select Committee suitably and the objection can be removed. Otherwise there is nothing new in this Bill. The idea that this bill seeks to change the Hindu-law of divorce or monogamy or polygamy is I think quite wrong. These objections are as much applicable to the present Special Marriage Act of 1872, which is in force as they are applicable to the proposed Bill. Therefore I think that we need go into all that. It seems to me that this is a simple measure. It extends the scope of the present law so that it will be available not only to people who are for the first time desirous of going through a form of marriage but also to people who have gone through some doubtful form of marriage and are desirous of removing the doubt. Let it be remembered that no registration can take place unless both the parties—husband and wife—who have gone through a previous marriage ceremony are agreeable to it and go to the Registrar. Therefore there is previous consent. The idea that any divorce is imposed upon anybody who is unwilling or who is probably injured by that divorce, is totally out of place in this connection. That is why I sought to explain the thing at the very outset while supporting this measure. The fact is that in no civilized country in the world is anybody prevented from going through a civil form of

[Sri C. Rajagopalachari]
 marriage. If the religious laws prevailing in that country prevented it there is only one proviso attached to all those civil forms, that there should be nothing immoral about them.

The very first section here repeats all the provisions that are contained in the other Special Marriage Act of 1872 and this fact should remove possible objections. Neither of them should have any other wife or a husband alive, the parties must not be related to each other in any prohibited degree of consanguinity or affinity, etc., all these are repeated in this Bill. This Bill provides a simple civil form of marriage to persons, provided there is no moral or social objection to that union. It removes the disability of illegitimacy to people who have been living together and who wish to be husband and wife and against which there can be no possible social objection. I therefore hope that the House will accept this Bill and see it through.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion that has been moved by my Honourable friend, Dr. Deshmukh for referring this Bill to the Select Committee. Let me at the outset make my position absolutely clear.

I stand for progressive legislation in social matters. Evidence of that was given a few days ago when I think I supported Dr. Deshmukh's Bill, perhaps more vehemently than anybody else in the House. Dr. Deshmukh well knows that during the period from 1935 to 1940 in the two or three pieces of legislation relating to social matters that he introduced in this House and succeeded in getting them passed I too have a very large share.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: No.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Go and see the proceedings and you will be convinced. I am sure that Dr. Deshmukh will be the first man to acknowledge it. I may further state, Mr. President, that the objectives which Dr. Deshmukh said he had in view in moving this Bill have my entire support. He stated that his object was to secure monogamous marriages and enable parties to have divorce when they find continuance of the marriage unhappy. So far as these objectives are concerned I have nothing but full support for them. But I respectfully submit, Mr. President, that the Bill as it is now before the House is entirely misconceived from the Preamble down to the last section. I know there is a combination of enthusiasm and ingenuity, as Dr. Deshmukh is supported by Hon. Raja Gopalachari yet we cannot be blind to the fact that this legislation is of a far-reaching character. My Honourable friend Rajaji may well say—and that is one of the ways of a very clever and able advocate—that this is a very simple Bill which seeks to extend the benefits of an Act which is already on the Statute Book to certain categories of people and therefore whatever objections one may have to the provisions that are incorporated in the Original Act are not valid so far as the discussion on the Amending Bill is concerned. I may very respectfully point out that the amending Bill seeks to extend the 'benefits' of the main Act and if that is so and if other categories are to be brought into the orbit of the original Act, it is only relevant that we should scrutinise whether what are described as benefits are really benefits or something else.

Mr. President, it is clear from the statement of objects and reasons of this Bill that Dr. Deshmukh wants "to give the benefit of modern legislation with respect to marriage to certain categories of people without in any way interfering with the religious sentiments of the communities concerned," and the particular piece of legislation which he has selected in order to confer 'benefits' upon persons in the Hindu fold is the Special Marriage Act of 1872 as modified by the Act of 1928. Now, in the discussion Dr. Deshmukh himself admitted that the Act of 1872 was very old that it does not keep pace with modern conditions and ideas and that there is a clearly established need for

amending it and yet knowing full well that the provisions of that Act are not beneficial to the Hindu community today, he wants to extend the so called benefits to new categories. I should very respectfully request this House that it must be with a great sense of responsibility, that it must interfere with the marriage laws of the land. After all the marriage institution is the greatest contribution made by social thinkers for the security of society, for peaceful enjoyment of life and for securing social happiness. It must be with the greatest caution and circumspection that thinkers like my Honourable friend Rajaji and others should proceed to legislate in these matters. The foundations of marriage are love, mutual understanding, respect, consideration for each other, appreciation of the fact that the life of the couple is an adventure or an undertaking in which there must be joint and cooperative effort. Therefore, if any interference is to be allowed it must be allowed only when there is a clear case that such interference will be to the mutual benefit of the parties concerned. My honourable friend, Mr. Rajaji, said that all considerations about monogamy and divorce are not relevant. I just want to know what is it that is at the back of Dr. Deshmukh's mind in proposing this piece of legislation. I am sure he does not want Hindu couples who have lived together for ten or fifteen years under the sacramental marriage bond to go to the registrar for the fun of it, and get their old marriage dissolved and the new marriage registered, surely, not for the fun of it. There must be some objective, and as I analyse the sections in the light of the remarks he made, I find that there can be three objectives for a couple going to a registrar and giving the necessary notice. The first is that they want the course of succession to be changed. The second is that they want to have the monogamous marriage or married life throughout. Third, they want to provide for the certainty of a divorce. Now, there cannot be any other objective. My honourable friend Rajaji suggested, that there may have been marriages which may not have been strictly legal, and that it is for legalising such marriages that a Bill of this kind will be useful—my humble answer to that is that this is not what is contemplated by the Bill as introduced by Dr. Deshmukh. I respectfully bring to the attention of this House what Dr. Deshmukh says in the preamble of this Bill—

"Whereas it is expedient to extend the benefits of the Special Marriage Act of 1872 (Act III of 1872) to persons who profess the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh or Jain religion and who are already married according to rites or mode of contracting marriage other than under the Special Marriage Act, 1872."

Let us see what it means. If the marriage is valid, then there is no difficulty. If the marriage is invalid, that invalidity can only be pronounced when the matter is taken to the court. Now, clause 8 of this Bill, says "In section 10 of the said Act, after the word 'solemnized' the words 'or registered' shall be inserted." Under section 10 of the original Act you will find, Sir, the parties have to make a declaration. Both the bride and the bridegroom have to declare "I am at the present time unmarried." If the marriage is there and the doubt is about its validity, it can only be set at rest by going to a court of law. If however the parties themselves consider that the marriage through the ceremony of which they have already gone, is not valid, they will either make a declaration that they are not married or they may say they are married. If they make a declaration that they are not married, then this Bill will not apply. It is clear. If they say they are married, then only, this Bill will apply. The first marriage is dissolved as soon as registration is effected. But the first marriage which is illegal does not become legal by being dissolved, nor the children born between the date of the first marriage and the registration under this Bill become legitimate. The doubts about the first marriage, remain, but marital relationship after registration becomes valid beyond doubt. Under this Bill there is no opportunity provided to legalise a doubtful marriage. What the Bill contemplates are marriages which are valid, which are solemnized according to the rites or mode of contracting marriages other than under the Special Marriage Act.

Now, what is the consideration on which we shall allow this Bill to proceed? Is it in the best interests of the society? As regards the particular form of this Bill I want to bring to your notice—

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Bill is entirely inconsistent with the preamble to the main Act The preamble of the main Act states

"Whereas it is expedient to provide a form of marriage for persons who do not profess the Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muhammadan, Parsi, Buddhist, Sikh or Jain religion and for persons who profess the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh or Jain religion, and to legalise certain marriages the validity of which is doubtful, it is hereby enacted as follows

In the main Act, the marriage is to be celebrated, and in order to facilitate the celebration of such a marriage that Act makes provision Here the marriage is already celebrated, the marriage is already there I therefore submit that the object with which the main Act has come into being is different altogether from the object with which the present Bill is introduced in this House. It is a matter for you, Mr President, to consider whether these two incongruous pieces of legislation can be so brought together and considered, whether the amending Bill which is fundamentally different from the main Act can be allowed to proceed But I do not want to take my stand on that ground My point is this that if Dr Deshmukh is really anxious to do a good turn to those who find their marriages unhappy, this is not the remedy As I said a few minutes ago, the couple must have some object in view It is not for the mere fun of it that they go before the registrar and get the first marriage dissolved and get the other marriage registered Do they want the course of succession to be diverted? In that case, I most respectfully submit that they are doing injustice to the children whom they have brought into this world, without their consent obviously This legislation is going to be retrospective If there is retrospective legislation

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: You are more anxious about them than the parents themselves.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I will show you a way which will secure your object better More than that I do not want to say If it is a retrospective piece of legislation, then the important point that every responsible legislature has to consider is whether it is going to expropriate interests which have already come into existence Take a case where the children are already there, and because they are born in a joint Hindu family they have earned certain rights, and if by marriage under this particular piece of legislation their rights are prejudiced, I think the expectations that they have a right to entertain under the general system of law prevalent in the community are frustrated This is unjust This is unfair and against all canons of justice and equity

Mr President, I agree with Dr Deshmukh that there must be monogamous marriages Dr Deshmukh knows that in the Bombay Presidency a law to that effect has been already passed and it is now law of the land Now, does this piece of legislation advance the cause of monogamy? A person who has already two wives—he must be a fortunate man—is out of the purview of this Bill Clause 2A states neither party has at the time of the registration any other husband or wife living A man who has two wives cannot go before the Registrar If he wants really to have another wife this piece of legislation can be taken advantage of for a day or two, because as soon as the marriage is registered under this legislation he will have all the benefits which a marriage celebrated and registered under Act III of 1872 has In other words, he will have the right to divorce If he is anxious to get rid of his wife because that thought may occur to him any time in his life he can immediately go to the proper court and get a divorce The object of this Bill is certainly, not as far as I am able to see, to divert the course of succession It cannot be monogamy because if a man is anxious to have one wife there is no necessity for him to go to the Registrar's court and get the marriage registered under the provisions of this Bill If he is a firm believer in monogamy, I do not think his belief is augmented or strengthened by the mere fact that he makes a solemn declaration before the Registrar but the real object, as I understand it, is no other than to facilitate divorce Let us say it frankly and freely I stand for divorce I have always supported it (Interruption by Dr Deshmukh) Dr Deshmukh should have enough patience as a

good doctor must have I stand for divorce Otherwise you cannot have marriage except for life That is too great a price In this connection the House may like to hear what the great jurist Bentham said

'It there were a law which forbade the taking a partner, a guardian, a manager, a companion, except on the condition of always keeping him, what tyranny, what madness it would be called' Yet, a husband is a companion, a guardian, a manager, a partner, and more yet, and still, in the greater part of civilised countries, a husband cannot be had except for life

To live under the perpetual authority of a man you hate, is of itself a state of slavery, but to be compelled to submit to his embraces, is a misfortune too great even for slavery itself Is it said that the yoke is mutual? That only doubles the misfortune

Since marriage presents to the generality of men the only means of satisfying fully and peaceably the imperious desires of love, to turn them from it is to deprive them of its pleasures, and is to do an evil of no small magnitude Now, what more terrible bugbear than the indissolubility of this contract? Whether it be a marriage, a service, a country, a condition of any kind, the prohibition to go out of it must operate as a prohibition to enter in When death is the only deliverer, what horrible temptations, what crimes may result from a position so fatal!"

As I said in the beginning of my remarks the foundations of marriage must be love, respect for each other, appreciation that it is a joint adventure which must be carried out with perfect understanding If that is gone and if hate, disrespect and intolerance take their place, I think the society ought to intervene and should by suitable legislation make matters easy for divorce Let us therefore say plainly that the object of this Bill is not diversion of the course of succession, nor promotion of monogamy but the object is to secure facility for divorce I then say—why go in this roundabout way If we think that it is a just thing, if we are convinced that that is the only method to secure maximum social happiness, we must plainly tell it to our society, our community, convince them, persuade them For some time it is possible we may be misunderstood but all the same we must tell them frankly that this is the right way Let us not do things in a manner which will create distrust What I am more afraid of is that the Hindu community will feel that instead of putting the issue of divorce straight before it, Dr. Deshmukh has tried to bring "by the back door" the law of divorce in the Hindu community Why should I go out of my way, if I want a divorce, to seek the provisions of this Bill and declare that my original marriage which was celebrated under the auspices of my parents, my friends, my elders, is dissolved Is there no sentiment about it After all the Hindu *dharma* is a way of life Let us not trifle with it Let us not approach it in a spirit of complete indifference Modern ideas I welcome but modern ideas must be incorporated in the old way of life in such a manner that when the old order changeth the impact will be as little as possible Let us herald the new without offending the old Let us not be bitter

I stand and swear by Hindu religion My marriage has been celebrated according to Hindu sacrament I want to stand by it If I want a divorce for a good cause, I am asked to go through a civil form of marriage, get my first marriage dissolved I do not consider for the time being the consequences that will accrue so far as my children born before the registration are concerned But why should I go through this ordeal of registration if I want a divorce? Why should I go through this humiliation of dissolution of my first marriage? It means that you can have divorce by going in a round about way This is a fraud In the interests of Hindu culture and in the interests of progress of Hindu community I appeal to Dr. Deshmukh to bring in a Bill and I make the same appeal to Rajaji to bring in a Bill which will legitimise the marriages, the category of which was referred to in his speech and which will also make provisions for divorce for those who want it on certain specified conditions Now what are you doing here? Are you really giving that benefit to those who get their marriages registered under this Bill? After all, the marriage law is an indication of the moral position in the society Just as a thermometer is an indication of the heat or a barometer is an indication of the weight of atmosphere, so your Marriage Law will indicate as to how your morals stand What will a foreigner think of us if he is to know that a Hindu gentleman who wants to have a divorce on very good grounds cannot get it because the Hindu Law

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is not there to help him and the leaders of the Hindu community with all their ingenuity and high intellectual order cannot find any other means except to have recourse to a legislation passed 64 years ago and which is sadly out of date and out of tune with modern ideas? I think that is not a state of affairs to be proud of. I would, therefore, very respectfully tell Dr Deshmukh and the Honourable Mr Rajaji that this is not the way to get the thing done. And, after all, are you really liberalising the law of divorce by simply making a provision for the couple to have a divorce under Act III of 1872?

Mr President, the Indian Divorce Act governs the parties married under the Special Marriage Act and the grounds for divorce are enumerated in section 10 of the Indian Divorce Act. That Act also is old. There may be clauses which will justify divorce today other than those enumerated in section 10. What have you done to liberalise this Act? If the contention of Dr Deshmukh is that the Act of 1872 is not liberal enough and it should be modified in so far as the provisions for divorce and other disabilities are concerned, he must bring in a new Bill. But so far as this Bill is concerned I submit that from the Preamble to the last clause everything will have to be changed if you want to make it upto date. There will be differences of opinion on every clause. Take the Preamble. It contains these words "according to rites or mode of contracting Marriage". According to some Hindu marriage is a sacrament and not a contract. There have been judicial pronouncements both ways. If it is held that it is a sacrament, then this Bill does not apply to it *ipso facto*. Therefore, I submit that, in the first place, the preamble of this Bill is inconsistent with the preamble of the main Act. It is a fact, it cannot be an amending Bill to the Act. It is fundamentally different. Secondly, taking the preamble as it is and if Hindu marriage is held as a sacrament, then I doubt very much whether the provisions of this Bill will be at all applicable to such a marriage.

Now, Sir, going further into the Bill clause 2(d) says

"The parties must not be related to each other in any degree of consanguinity or affinity prescribed in clause (4) of section 2 and the provisos thereto."

You will find from the main Act that the degrees of prohibition there are narrower. Now, take a case where a man has married his maternal uncle's

daughter. It is perfectly legal according to custom in several provinces. If this couple goes before the Registrar, the first marriage will be dissolved. There will be this registered marriage and it can be successfully challenged by their own children or by somebody else interested in the course of succession. So, they will be neither here nor there. I do not know what will be the fate of that couple.

Now, if I were to go through the other clauses, you will not permit me to have a detailed criticism of them under the relevant Standing Order. All I can say is that if you want to re-draft the whole thing from the preamble to the last clause, why not bring in a new Bill altogether? It is just like a case in which I happened to ask the Chief Officer of a certain municipality, how is the state of the city? He said "Six persons have died of plague, 16 persons have died of cholera, 20 persons are down with malaria, drains and pipes have been broken, there have been half a dozen cases of arson, but everything is O.K. with the city". So, here also everything is O.K. with the Bill although the preamble is wrong, the other clauses are entirely either irrelevant or inconsistent and the last and the most important clause, namely, 15A, that is, dissolution of previous marriage on registration of new marriage, is not wanted even by my Honourable friend Rajaji as it is.

Now, Dr Deshmukh made a reference about a certain Bar Association and he ridiculed to some extent—I do not say intentionally or deliberately—the views expressed by Women's Associations, I may tell Dr Deshmukh that so far as the women of my province are concerned, they have more commonsense and they know the whole thing much better than most of us either do know or pretend to know. I may tell him that when the Bill to prevent bigamous marriages was introduced in the Bombay Legislative Assembly and circulated

to elicit public opinion, I accepted the invitation of certain women's organisations to explain the provisions of the Bill. Mr. President, I have never addressed such a meeting in my long life. There were about 700 women. I was the only male in that gathering and there was one newspaper man who was allowed as a sort of bodyguard to me. I explained the provisions of the Bill for an hour and a half. Then for another 1½ hours some twelve women participated in the debate. Many of them opposed and many others supported it. But the level of criticism was so high that it would be wrong to say that anybody could fool womankind, at any rate so far as my Province is concerned that is my opinion.

Mr. President, you will find in the opinion—I do not want to refer to them in detail—that women's organisations have stated that the principles underlying this Bill are good and acceptable, but they do not like this Bill. They prefer the corresponding provision in the Hindu Code. I can assure Dr. Deshmukh that it does not mean that we should all wait till the Hindu Code is before the House and, is passed. No, Sir, I do not object to piecemeal legislation, if it is necessary. In fact that is exactly what I said during the debate on the *safota* marriage Bill. Analysis of opinions will show that nobody supports the Bill as it is. The orthodox section opposes it. But those who support the principles underlying the Bill are all opposed to this Bill. They prefer a separate Bill providing divorce in certain circumstances. The object of this Bill is no other than to enable a couple have divorce which at present they cannot have in the absence of any law of divorce in Hindu religion. Therefore my humble submission is, have entirely a new Bill for divorce. Are you really serving the purpose which you have in mind by taking this Bill through all the legislative stages? You will find, Sir, that it will not be very easy to get divorce under the provisions of the Indian Divorce Act. You will have to go through registration first and then go in for divorce proceedings. I would rather prefer as I said that you have a straight law which will deal with divorce so that it may be cheap in point of expenditure, it may be easy in procedure and one which can be well understood by members of the Hindu community.

Mr. President, I would have liked to criticise other provisions of the Bill, but as I know there are a number of friends who are very anxious to make their own contribution, I do not think I should prolong my speech any further, but at the same time, I would most earnestly request you, Mr. President to give ample scope so that the Hindu society may know that we are facing the issue straightaway and not in an indirect manner. Sir, I oppose the reference of this Bill to the Select Committee.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions, Non-Muhammadian Rural). Mr. President, Sir, in rising to support the principles underlying Dr. Deshmukh's Bill, I should like to assure the House that I have listened with every respect and much interest to the speech of that my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil has just delivered. Coming as I do from the ancient and sacred city of Kashi, I should like to assure him that I am as good a *sanatan dharma* as he himself.

Sgt. K. V. Gadgil: I am not a *sanatanist*.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If my Honourable friend does not belong to the *sanatan dharma*, at least I do. That *dharma* has been well depicted in the two famous lines

*Satyam bruyat priyam bruyat
na bruyat satya-mapriyam
Satyam bruyat priyam bruyat
Esha dharmah sanatanah*

"Thou shalt speak the truth, thou shalt speak what is pleasing; thou shalt not speak the truth that is not pleasing nor a lie that is pleasing. That is *sanatana dharma* the eternal law." I am anxious, Sir, to tread warily on what must be a dangerous ground of social and religious reform. I am fully aware that one is to be on his guard when dealing with such matters; and I have no desire to

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infuse any heat in the discussion. When one has to deal with problems such as this, in a complicated society like ours where social customs and religious beliefs have got inextricably mixed up we have to be very careful.

Sir, to be quite candid, the first time that the problem of registration of marriages came before me was when Lord Sinha's marriage was disputed and his son was not given access to the House of Lords though Lord Sinha had been made a Peer. It then occurred to me that there must be something intrinsically wanting in the system pertaining to marriages in my country which could create a situation like that when the House of Lords could dispute the validity of the marriage of such a distinguished son of India as Lord Sinha. When things happen to humble people, they do not attract the attention that they do when they happen to big folk like Lord Sinha. It was then that I started studying the system of marriages that prevailed in India and also to think if there was any way of reforming those systems so that such situations may not arise in the future. My Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil said that love was the foundation of marriage. So far as I know in India marriage is the foundation of love. We love because we marry, we do not marry because we love. In the case of Mr. Gadgil, it may be different.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I am both ways.

Shri Sri Prakasa: A close study of this Bill will assure Mr. Gadgil that there is no contemplation of any interference with the system of marriage. It is a purely permissive measure, and it is not good getting excited over its provisions and thinking that our religion is in danger. What my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil and friends like him suffer from is the conviction that Hindu means only the high caste Hindu and that the vast majority of Hindus who are humble and who belong to the so-called lower castes are not Hindus at all.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I never suggested that.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If my Honourable friend did not suggest it, I should like seriously to ask him whether by implication he did not say that divorce was not known to Hindu society. I do not know of conditions in his part of the country, but in my part of the country divorces are most common among the humble castes of Hindus. If there is a difference between the husband and the wife, if some cause arises due to which the husband gets enraged with his wife or the wife gets disappointed with the husband, immediately a divorce takes place and society recognises that. And despite what is said in the Indian Penal Code the conventions of the land even as accepted by the law courts, have to recognise that. Sir, in India we have traditionally got many kinds of marriages—I believe there are eight kinds—and I understand there are many categories of sons who are recognised—I believe the number is twelve. And so it is almost impossible to say what custom exactly is Hindu and what exactly is not, and it is time that we worked up to some system of uniformity so that all doubts might be set at rest.

So far as I read into Dr. Deshmukh's Bill, I find that he makes three things quite clear. One is that those who want to take advantage of the provisions of the Special Marriage Act can do so. As the law stands today, when a man and woman have married once they cannot have this civil marriage afterwards, for at the time of the civil marriage both parties have to declare that they are unmarried. There are many persons who, rightly or wrongly, are not satisfied only by a civil marriage, they like to have some ceremonies, they like to go through what is roughly called a sacramental marriage—the burning fire and the oblations put into that fire, the going round and round the fire,—all these things seem to satisfy the soul of many people. But it so happens that if you have gone through a marriage like that you cannot possibly declare afterwards that you are unmarried, and therefore you cannot perform a civil marriage. I think such persons who desire to have a sacramental marriage and also wish to take advantage of the provisions of the Special Marriage Act should be allowed to do so; and I think that Dr. Deshmukh's

Bill makes that clear. My Honourable friend Mr Gadgil has referred to the apparent absurdity of the man and woman who have once married getting married again. At least in my part of the country, a thing like that is not unknown. It happens in the case of a couple who have 20 children if the same couple happen to have 20 sons and daughters—they go through the whole ceremony of marriage again with themselves. (Interruption.) Perhaps the idea is to give an extra holiday to the children themselves! In any case the fact is that in some circumstances, the same couple marry each other.

I think the law should make this point clear—if it has not done so already—that in case there are children of a marriage, at the time when a husband and wife desire to go through a civil marriage, those children will retain all the rights that they had under the law under which the husband and wife were first married and which prevailed when they were married. That I think is the case even today. I know of an old gentleman of Delhi—I will not mention his name—who wanted to marry a person of another caste. He found that he could not marry this particular person—he himself was a widower—except according to the Civil Marriage Act. He went through the marriage. The Civil Marriage Act as it stands today says that at the time a person marries under the Civil Marriage Act, his connection with his joint Hindu family is severed. So this gentleman's civil marriage severed his connection with the joint family. The sons of his first marriage which was sacramental, got their share of the parental property on the date of the father's second marriage, and this old gentleman walked away with his own share. That I think will occur even in the case of those who marry under Dr Deshmukh's Bill. The children if any, of the previous sacramental marriage will get what they would have otherwise got, and the father—let us say—who is contracting a civil marriage, will go away with his share. This is in accordance with law and custom as they stand today, for today too the father can separate from his sons as much as a son can separate from his father. His subsequent civil marriage only means that the father separates from his sons hands over to them their share of the property, goes away with his own share and marries under the Civil Marriage Act, and the children that came after this new marriage will get all the rights that this particular Act gives them. I think that is what Dr Deshmukh would like to do, and if the wording of the Bill is not satisfactory and does not connote what I am saying it should be put right in the Select Committee. Therefore, Sir, there is no prejudice as my Honourable friend Mr Gadgil suspects, to the rights of the children of that marriage.

Then Sir, the most important point is about the validity of marriages. A large number of marriages in India are really disputed. It is very common among the humble classes. So many of them get married very early despite the law that prevents such marriages. Then the man goes away in search of bread to a distant town and he returns after many years. The parents of the girl who had been married to him insist that the girl was really married to him. He denies, and there is a dispute, there being no record and no registration of the marriage. A large number of such cases come before the law courts in my province at least. These things should be set at rest. All marriages that are disputed or are likely to be disputed should be validated in some form or another, and I think that Dr Deshmukh has given a very good way out. I will refer to the case of Prof Indra. He is a well known person, the son of Swami Shaddhanand. He had contracted a perfectly proper marriage, but because it was an inter-caste marriage there was a dispute about its validity; and he consulted no less a lawyer than Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru who advised him to undergo a civil marriage because the earlier marriage was really a marriage at all according to the law as it stood at that time and husband and wife were married to each other again. Now there must be some way out of such perfectly proper marriages to be recognized by law in order that no disputes may arise in the future. There are conflicting judgments of the present High Courts of the land. Some regard the *anuloma* marriage—the marriage of a high caste to a lower caste woman as legal marriage, some do not; some regard inter-caste marriage as legal marriage, some do not. Now

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when we desire a certain amount of freedom in marriages, we must also see to it that marriages that are correctly performed, and in which there is no immorality or impropriety, should be recognized by law, and I think this Bill gives a guarantee that all such marriages shall be so recognized. So this Bill also helps in validating inter-caste marriages and all marriage relations which are perfectly moral and correct.

My friend, Mr Gadgil was rather worried about one form of marriage, which personally I regard a very improper system, and which prevails in the South where a maternal uncle can marry his niece, or where maternal cousins can marry each other. My friend fears that such marriages might come within the mischief of the new law and be declared invalid. If my honest opinion were taken I should like them to be declared invalid, but that is neither here nor there. So far as I understand Dr Deshmukh's Bill he disallows marriages within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity. When I had a talk with the late Law Member, Sir Asoke Roy, on this matter in the last Session of the Assembly, he said that there was really no definition about these degrees. There was some Bill before the Assembly at the time and this matter cropped up in the course of that Bill. So I was asking him as to what was and was not a prohibited degree of consanguinity. He said that in different parts of India different customs prevailed and therefore different laws about consanguinity prevailed, and so his advice was that we should not touch that matter to press for any definition. And so I take it that in the South where a marriage between maternal cousins is permitted such a marriage will not come within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity and therefore the question raised by Mr Gadgil will not arise at all. I think therefore, Sir looking at the problem both from the religious and the social standpoint it would be a good thing if we pass this Bill into law but as certain provisions have to be redrafted, it would be best to send it to the Select Committee and ask them to hurry up. No friend need have any apprehensions about the safety of Hindu society, which would only be further consolidated by the new law. The Bill helps to bring about a certain amount of uniformity in the law of the land pertaining to marriages for one thing, and then it also speeds up some much needed reform. I hope, therefore Sir that the House will unanimously support the measure of Dr Deshmukh.

REQUISITIONED LAND (CONTINUANCE OF POWERS) BILL

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. President: The other day the House ordered that the report of the Select Committee about the requisitioning Bill should be submitted by Friday. The Honourable Mr Mandal may just present the report and then we shall resume discussion on this Bill.

The Honourable Mr Jogendra Nath Mandal (Law Member) Sir I present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land.

SPECIAL MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL—contd

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House) I have listened carefully to the speech of the mover of this motion as well as some other speeches in the House and repeatedly I have gone back to see what the Bill exactly was, because it seemed to me that the speeches often had nothing to do with the Bill. They rambled all over the place, referred to all manner of practices all over India while the Bill itself is quite an extraordinarily simple affair.

Now, the subject of marriage reform is a subject which obviously interests every individual and it is easy to think of all these ramifications but it does confuse the issue. The subject before us is very simple. For my part, I am entirely in favour of some kind of general provision for civil marriages, and

hope soon this House will adopt some such measure. This measure does not go so far. It seeks to remedy, as far as I can see, certain *lacunae* certain difficulties which have arisen, and all of us know that there are numerous marriages amongst Hindus today which may or may not be considered strictly legal. Some people may not attach much importance to legality, but other people do and obviously whether they do or not, it does affect all manner of things—may be in regard to subsequent inheritance and other matters—whether the marriage is legal or not. Now in order to avoid those difficulties, this proposal is made for a couple, who have been married according to certain religious rites and who may perhaps doubt the validity of their marriage to go through the civil form to validate it. I may say at once that I do not approve of some of the provisions as suggested in Dr Deshmukh's Bill, more especially right at the end where he talks about the dissolution of the marriage when the civil marriage takes place. I do not see any reason why anything should be dissolved at all but the general principle underlying this Bill is to enable people who may have contracted marriages, which are not strictly legal, to legalise them by civil marriage. I do not see how anybody can possibly object to that. It is a permissive clause, it does not compel anybody. People have talked about divorce and other matters. Nobody in this particular Bill is changing the Hindu Law in regard to divorce which remains exactly where it was. I am not at the moment talking about the desirability of divorce or not. For my part it is desirable but it does not arise here. We are not dealing with divorce in this, and as my Honourable friend, Mr Sri Prakasa, said among Hindus the vast majority do indulge in divorce. We should not think too much about the top rank Hindus and consider the rest out of the pale. But this measure has nothing to do with divorce. That must be clear. It only enables a couple who may doubt the validity of their marriage to legalise and validate it. Doing so, they do not put an end to their previous marriage or dissolve it—I hope they will not—and no change ought to occur in the status of the children of the previous marriage. They remain under the law under which they had so far remained. I do not understand this question as to what will happen to the children if the second marriage takes place. It is true if there is a civil marriage, the couple then come under the Civil Marriage act and can then choose, have a divorce. They can do that. That does not affect Hindus generally. If those two persons choose to do so, I do not see why anyone should come in their way.

I do beg of the House to consider the Bill as it is, or rather the main principles because, exactly as it is, it may be that many members do not wholly approve—I do not approve of all the detailed provisions—but the main provision, the main principle behind it is good. I should like to go further. However, it has come in this limited form to us and it comes only as a proposal to be sent to the Select Committee which, I hope, can easily amend it, and rectify the errors committed in the original draft. So I do hope the House will approve of this proposal, not so much on account of Dr Deshmukh's arguments but on account of the Bill itself.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I am surprised in view of the preamble of Dr Deshmukh's Bill, to hear the remarks of the Honourable Sri Rajagopalachari and the Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. You will see Sir, that the preamble itself says that "to persons who profess the Hindu Buddhist Sikh or Jain religion and who are already married according to rites or mode of contracting marriage other than under the Special Marriage Act, 1872." It presupposes that the marriages under the Hindu Law and the Sikh Law are perfectly valid and for cases of valid marriages this Bill is being enacted. It is not with regard to marriages which may be invalid under Hindu Law or the Sikh Law that a provision is being made to legalise those marriages. The provision is being made to register marriages which are already valid. Therefore, I was really surprised when the Honourable Rajagopalachari, learned as he is, cited an instance where a marriage may be invalid according to Hindu law or the personal law of the party and where this should be legalised. I should have no objection to that the only object of the Bill was to legalise a marriage which would have been

[Mr. P. B. Gole]

invalid under the present law of the land. But it is not so. The preamble of the Act says that the marriage is valid under the personal law of the parties and those marriages are to be registered in order to give them a right of divorce. That is what Dr. Deshmukh himself plainly stated.

In view of this preamble, I fail to understand how this wrong impression has been carried by the Honourable Rajagopalachari, a learned man in our *shastri*, and I do not know how Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru carried this impression, that the marriage which is invalid under the personal law of the parties should be validated by this Bill. It is not, really speaking, covered by this Bill. Marriages which are invalid under the law are not sought to be validated by the present Bill. Therefore, I am very sorry that the scope of Dr. Deshmukh's Bill is quite different from the idea which my honourable friend, Rajaji, carries regarding this Bill. That should be understood, because we are proceeding on the assumption that this Bill has been brought in to register marriages which were already valid under the personal law of the parties. That is what Dr. Deshmukh also said. If it had been so, that under the personal law of the party the marriage was invalid, then it would be perfectly proper for the parties to have it registered under the civil law. But that is not the object with which the Bill has been brought. If you refer to the statement of objects and reasons, you will see that here also the Honourable Dr. Deshmukh does not refer to the invalidity of marriages under the personal law of the parties. He says there is a very large volume of educated public opinion in favour of reform in the existing marriage laws. It is not a question of invalidity of marriage. The object of this Bill is to provide a means of having the benefits of modern ideas of legislation respecting marriage without in any way interfering with the religious sentiments of the communities concerned. Therefore, you will see, Sir, that here Dr. Deshmukh does not in his objects and reasons refer to marriages which are invalid by the personal law of the party but which should be legalised in order to give a legitimate status to the children. That is not the object. Therefore, somehow or other, I do not understand how it is being understood in this House, especially by responsible people that this Bill is intended to regularise or legalise the marriage which under the personal law of the party is invalid. As I understand the Bill it is not so. Therefore, I have got a very strong objection to this Bill, apart from the religious sentiments which are certainly hurt, so far as Hindus are concerned. You will find, if you just compare the provisions of this Bill with the provisions of the Civil Marriage Act, that it is very much against the very sections which have been enacted under the Civil Marriage Act. It will be extremely difficult to reconcile this Bill with the Civil Marriage Act.

It may be understood before I come to the sections that the word "register" is not defined here. But if we were to read clause 12, which adds section 15A, it shows that what is meant by registration is that the party shall be deemed to have dissolved the marriage with the other party and the parties shall be deemed to be married under this Act. Therefore, registration means—although what is really meant is not defined in the Act—solemnization of the Marriage under the Civil Marriage Act. It means nothing else because this new section 15A which is sought to be added shows that the party shall be deemed to have been married under this Act. Now let us understand the position. Instead of solemnizing the marriage under the Civil Marriage Act, Dr. Deshmukh says the marriage will be registered. Because the meaning of solemnization and registration in the view of Dr. Deshmukh seems to be the same, (because he has not tried to define what is meant by registration) let us see what effect it will have on the original Act. Now read Section 10. Section 10 of the original Act is

"Before the marriage is solemnized (and Dr. Deshmukh wants to amend it by saying "or registered") the parties and three witnesses shall in the presence of the Registrar, sign a declaration in the form contained in the second schedule to this Act. If either party has not completed the age of twenty-one years, the declaration shall also be signed by his or her father or guardian, except in the case of a widow and, in every case, it shall be countersigned by the Registrar."

So as soon as it is signed by the parties and the three witnesses then the marriage is registered:

Then Section 11 says the marriage shall be "solemnised" or "registered", (the word "registered" is being added by Dr Deshmukh) in the presence of the Registrar and the three witnesses, provided that each party says to the other in the presence and hearing of the Registrar and witnesses "I take thee to be my lawful wife or I take thee to be my lawful husband." What does this mean? Parties who were married are to come before the Registrar at the time of the so-called registration of the marriage and say "I take thee to be my lawful wife" or husband as the case may be. This presupposes that up to that time he was an illegal husband or she an illegal wife. You mean to say that these words have no meaning. It is a solemn assertion which has to be made within the hearing of the Registrar and it means that before that the man or the woman were not legally husband and wife, unless of course my friend wants only to legalise marriages of persons who want to tell her before the Registrar. If that is so, we are not making any provision for honourable people and we are making a legal provision for cheats. For a man or woman who is already married to go before the Registrar and say "I take you to be my lawful wife" or husband as the case may be, is absolutely wrong. It is against one's own conscience, because it would predicate that before that they were not legal husband and wife.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma (Meerut Division Non-Muhammadsen Rural) Have legal conscience

Mr. P. B. Gole: Legal conscience is something different in the view of my Honourable friend. I have got very serious objection to the amendment sought to be made by Dr Deshmukh.

Let us take section 15 of the old Act. It says

"Every person who, being at the time married, procures a marriage of himself to be solemnised under this Act, shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 494 or section 495 of the Indian Penal Code as the case may be and the marriage so solemnised is void."

Now this section is not sought to be abrogated. If the previous marriage was valid and legal, then if a man contracts a marriage under this Act he commits an offence under those sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Under which sections?

Mr. P. B. Gole: Sections 494 and 495. They are mentioned in section 15 of the Act. The position is this. Here is a person who was legally married before the proposed civil marriage and now he comes and says that he wants his marriage to be "solemnised" or "registered". It would mean that he technically commits an offence. Section 15 of the old Act is not sought to be abrogated by any amendment and so long as it remains as it is on the statute book people who go to the Registrar to have their marriage registered commit an offence under sections 494 or 495 as the case may be.

It is a very funny piece of legislation that Dr Deshmukh has brought. He says that he consulted many eminent lawyers and that after consultation this Bill was framed. With all respect to the Honourable Dr Deshmukh and to those legal luminaries who advised him to frame such a Bill, I have very serious misgivings about this Bill.

Take section 19 of the old Act. It says

"Nothing in this Act contained shall affect the validity of any marriage not solemnised under its provisions not shall this Act be deemed directly or indirectly to affect the validity of any mode or contracting marriage, but, if the validity of any such mode hereafter come into question before any court, such question shall be decided as if this Act had not been passed."

Suppose you register a marriage under this Act (Interruption by the Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari.) With great respect to Rajaji I would submit that it is not with respect to other marriages. I want to know whether the amendment that is sought put now by the addition of section 15 (a) would in any way affect his marriage solemnised under his personal law.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Notwithstanding any law to the contrary

Mr. P. B. Gole: Section 15 (a) says "Marriage between the parties shall be deemed to have been dissolved." That is what is sought to be done under section 15 (a). So long as section 19 remains on the statute book, how can this marriage, by adding section 15 (a), be dissolved? Unless you remove section 19 or amend it, it is not possible.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan)]

The section says "nor shall this Act be deemed directly or indirectly to affect the validity of any mode of contracting marriage." Under this section if the old marriage was valid according to the personal law of the parties, that marriage remains and that is not affected by registration. If that is so, how can you say in this section 15 (a) that the marriage is dissolved?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: That will be removed.

Mr. P. B. Gole: For the present it is not. How are you going to remove it, I do not know. So long as Section 19 is on the statute book I do not see how under section 15 (a) the old marriage can be dissolved. Therefore I submit with all respect and with all honour to Dr. Deshmukh and Rajaji that I beg to differ from their views. This is a very incongruous position which is sought to be brought up by the enactment of this Bill.

There is a further difficulty. If you go further you will find that section 23 says

"A person professing the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh or Jain religion who marries under this Act shall have the same rights and subject to the same disabilities in regard to right of succession to any property as a person to whom the Caste Removal of Disabilities Act applies."

There is a proviso also that "nothing in this section shall confer on any person any right to any religious office or service." Now, a married couple who are validly married according to the personal law of the parties go to the registrar and get the marriage registered. What is the personal law of that man? He is really speaking, under this Act, severed from the family itself. His right of succession disappears. Not only that, but supposing his father were alive, the father gets a right of adoption. Not only that, but supposing the grandchildren who would otherwise get a right by birth in that property, for no fault of theirs, will be deprived of their right by birth on account of this, because the law as it stands is clear on this point. I am not conversant with Jain law because Jains are governed by Hindu law at present—though they say they have got a separate law of their own. I know certain *Jain points* say they have got an independent law of their own. Apart from that, I am ignorant about the Buddhist law and about the Sikh law. They may be governed by the Hindu law, but whether they also get a right by birth I do not know. (In *He is a noble Member*, Vol. 1) I am very glad to know that. Then the position would be this: that by this marriage the children previous to this registration, for no fault of theirs, lose their right by birth. Another question would naturally arise. Suppose they are legitimised by certain amendment of the present clause 12, what would be the position of those children? Should the son consider his father to be dead, because he becomes separate under the provisions of this Act? Should the son consider the father to be dead and offer oblations to him? A very strange position would arise. Here is a man who marries under the Special Marriage Act or who registers his marriage as Dr. Deshmukh wants it to be done; he dissolves the old marriage and the position would then be that he is severed from the family ties. His children would remain in the family, but they will lose their right of succession by survivorship. What should these sons consider? Should they consider their father to be dead and should they offer oblations? Supposing the man is religious-minded.

An Honourable Member: He is separated from the father.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Civilly he is as good as dead, because the father gets a right of adoption. . . .

Pundit Thakur Des Bhargava (Ambala Division Non-Muhammadian) He does not get it under the Bill

Mr. P. B. Gole: If you will see the new section 15A proposed to be introduced by clause 12 of the Bill, you will see it is so it says

"and this parties to such registration and their issues shall thenceforth have all the rights and be subject to all disabilities prescribed under sections 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 of this Act"

You will see section 25 it says

"No person professing the Hindu, Buddhist Sikh or Jain religion who marries under this Act shall have any rights of adoption"

Section 26 says

"Where a person professing the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh or Jain religion marries under this Act the father shall, if he has no other son living, have the right to adopt any other person as a son under the law to which he is subject"

You will see that it is an anomalous position. The son is living, he happens to discard this old marriage performed under Hindu rites, and he takes it into his head to get the marriage registered under the special law. The father finds himself in the awkward position he finds the son is civilly dead and he can take another son and give that son a right by birth in that property under the joint Hindu family. This is strange. Dr Deshmukh should have paused a little to consider the very evil effects of such a legislation upon the whole of the society, upon the whole of the law of survivorship, the law of inheritance of the Hindus. I am really surprised that Dr Deshmukh should do this. On the contrary he says in clause 12 by which section 15A is sought to be added to this Act

"the parties shall be deemed to be married under this Act as from the date of such registration and the parties to such registration and their issues shall thenceforth have all the rights and be subject to all disabilities prescribed under sections 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 of this Act"

This enactment would have been a simple thing if it had been restricted to cases suggested by the Honourable Mr Rajagopalachariar or the Honourable Pandit Nehru. I would then have been the last man to get up and oppose it. As I pointed out, if the Bill is restricted only to legal marriages, not to invalid marriages at all. This is what the preamble says, and until you change the

4 P.M. preamble I do not see how this can be done. (Interruption) If the preamble can be changed, the whole Act should be changed, in fact everything has to be changed. As I pointed out, this Bill which seems to revolutionise the structure of a Hindu family or a Sikh family, if it is going to be revolutionised in this fashion, and if as the Honourable Mr Rajagopalachari has just now said, even the preamble should be changed, then we have got a different Bill altogether. If you change the preamble, and change also the objects and reasons given for this Bill, then certainly the very object for which this Bill is said to be enacted is not before the House, nor was it before the public. We have gone to the public on this Bill. We have circulated this Bill and called for opinions on this Bill. These opinions restricted themselves to the legal marriages, legal under the personal law of the party, and from this point of view this Bill has been looked at. As the Honourable Mr Rajagopalachari just now said, we can change it. You have a right to change it, but you have not called for public opinion on that. We have gone to the country for eliciting public opinion on the Bill, together with this statement of objects and reasons and together with this preamble. The object for which this Bill is sought to be enacted in this House is there, and therefore we would be doing a very wrong thing if at this stage we change the preamble and the statement of objects and reasons. Certainly I would be the first man, as I said, to get up and say that under such circumstances, if the marriage is invalid according to the personal law of the party it should be validated under the Civil Marriage Act. I would be the first man to say that the marriage should be legalised, and if it can be legalised under the Special Marriage Act, it should also be done. I would not object to that; but I want to remind Rajaji that if that was the restricted scope of the Bill, I would not have been on my legs to oppose such a

[Mr P B Gole]

Bill Here the position is different You will find further difficulties in the way of the Bill

The Act itself says that it applies not only to persons professing the Hindu or the Sikh or the Jain religion, but it also applies to persons who do not profess the Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Moslem or Parsi religions Let us understand the position The law is there, and under the law those Muslims or Parsis or Christians who are married according to the personal law, the Christian or the Muhammadan law, they can go and say "we do not belong to any religion", and they can get their marriage civilly registered Now, it affects directly their personal law Although the preamble of the Bill refers to persons who profess the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh or Jain religion, is the body of the amendments that have been suggested nothing has been said about the religion of the man. On the contrary as soon as you enact this into law, the preamble of the present bill will disappear The amendments will be incorporated in the old law and the old law applies also to Jews, Muhammadans, Parsis and Buddhists All these provisions which Dr Deshmukh wants to apply to Hindus will be equally applicable to Christians, Muhammadans and others I do not know whether the Muslim Community or the Christian community want such an innovation in their law Do they want that a marriage which was valid according to the personal law of the parties should be again registered and that the old marriage should be nullified and they should be governed by the Succession Act and not by their personal law?

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province General) We have got a more reformed marriage than this law even

Mr. P. B. Gole: I am not conversant with Muhammadan law So far as this Bill is concerned, the Bill as soon as it is incorporated in the body of the original Act ceases to apply only to Hindus You will find that none of the amendments which are sought to be incorporated in the original Act refer to the religion of the man and therefore as soon as these are incorporated in the original Act, the provision about Hindus, Parsis and Sikhs will disappear and any person of any faith can go to the Civil Registrar and he can say that he does not profess any religion and have the marriage annulled Therefore really speaking the Bill is so badly worded that it will have to be drastically changed

Now, Sir, I will give you certain instances and you will find the disastrous effects of this Bill Suppose a man marries a second wife, the first wife having died leaving certain children When the second wife comes, she wants to deprive the children of the first wife of their right of succession Now the step-mother would be very glad indeed that her sons alone should succeed and that the children of the first wife should get nothing The husband can be prevailed upon by the wife to go to a Registrar and get the marriage registered, thus depriving the children of the first wife of the right of succession to the property What is going to happen! By means of this so called reform, do you want to perpetuate fraud, injustice and illegality upon the whole society I do not really understand why this Bill is being insisted on Who wants this Who has asked for such a change If I were to read the opinions on this Bill you will find that the majority of the opinions, even of men and women of reformed ideas, are dead against this Bill They think that there is great danger involved in enacting this Bill into law Why has Dr Deshmukh fought shy of opinions You send a Bill for the purpose of eliciting opinions thereon The society does not as a whole want it They have got serious objections to it and here in the teeth of the opposition of the public you want to enact a law I can understand if the legislature wants to remove certain injustice but you cannot try to pass a Bill which the society does not want You are forcing this enactment upon society in the teeth of opposition This is certainly not warranted by any rules of justice and good conscience After all it is not for Dr Deshmukh to dictate what laws should govern the society I certainly am not going to accept Dr Deshmukh as a law giver and nobody will accept him as a law giver, much less those enthusiastic people who want to introduce innovations in the personal law of the parties Unless they are highly respected and held in high esteem by the

public, nobody is going to hear them. Therefore it should be noted that so long as the society does not want any law, we should not force this controversial measure upon an unwilling society.

Before I proceed to give you some of the opinions that have been expressed on this Bill, I would bring to the notice of the House a very serious complaint made by the "Sanatan Dharm Pratinidhi Sabha" of Lahore. In their complaint they have stated that there was a practice previously that the Punjab Government was sending copies of such Bills to the prominent Hindu and Sikh religious and social bodies in the province for eliciting opinion. This time the Punjab Government has not cared to send the Bills to these bodies and they have contented themselves by reproducing the Bills in the Punjab Gazette which will not come to the notice of the public concerned. Hence opinions will not be expressed and submitted. They say that the Sabha has come to know about the Punjab Gazette with great difficulty and they also say that the Bills came very late. So far as the circulation of the Bill in the Punjab is concerned, it has not been done properly. In fact those bodies and societies which are likely to be affected by such a piece of legislation must be informed of what this House is going to do and if really speaking you want public opinion on these matters, it is the duty of the Government to see that all persons likely to be affected by the legislation know what the legislation is or is going to be. Having regard to the specific complaint made from the Punjab, I say that the Bill has not been circulated properly. As I will show hereafter, public opinion is so much against this Bill that it is unwise to proceed with it. Before this new Government came into being, the old Government was dead against such legislation. I know and many of us know the speech of Sir Asoka Roy on this point. He has stated that the Bill is against all laws, it is a lawless law.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: That is not correct. The Honourable gentleman is misleading the House.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I am not misleading the House. The proceedings of this House are there and they can be referred to by anybody. I know what Sir Asoka Roy said. He said that there were so many defects in the Bill and he advised that the House should not proceed with such a Bill.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: He pointed out those defects when sending the Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. P. B. Gole: The motion was for circulation and that was debated in the House. At the time of circulation Sir Asoka Roy pointed out that this is going to be a very bad Bill. Of course, as Dr. Deshmukh agreed that the Bill be circulated, he did not object to it. But he was quite definite that this Bill was a pernicious Bill and it should not be enacted into law.

Diwan Chaman Lal (West Punjab Non-Muhammadsen): Many opinions are in favour of it.

Mr. P. B. Gole: There are very few opinions which are in favour of it. Even in the Punjab you will find that the opinions are not given by Hindus. I am referring to the opinions given by the Hindus and Sikhs because they are the persons who are likely to be affected by this legislation and it is their opinions that count and not the opinions of the Christians. The Christians think that if this Bill is enacted into law it will not affect them or the Musalmans. I have told you already that as soon as the preamble disappears and the amendments are incorporated, the original preamble will remain and this preamble will disappear, because the words are that it is expedient and necessary to amend a certain law. Unless in each section, where you want to amend, you refer to those particular persons who belong to such and such faith.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The provision in section 2 is there and if that is retained this difficulty will not arise and cannot arise.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Now, Sir, I will refer to some of the opinions that have been collected. The opinions are not many because, I think, the Bill has not been properly circulated as has been pointed out by the "Punjab Dharma Sabha."

{ Mr. P. B. Gole }

Here is an opinion from the Assistant Commissioner and District Magistrate of Coorg. We shall go from the south. He says

"The evil consequences of the Bill are, however, very clear. As pointed out by Mr. A. Ayyangar and Pandit Balakrishna Sharma in the Assembly Debates a husband who wants to get rid of his wife or parents who want to disinherit their children can have their marriage registered and have their guilty desire fulfilled. There may be some cases where persons who have children by the deceased first wife are likely to be induced by the second wife to have the marriage registered in order to disinherit the children by the first wife. Married couple who are not pulling on well will find a remedy by getting their marriage registered and then immediately invoke the provision of the Divorce Act. Of course, there will be difficulty in such people coming to an agreement to have their marriage registered. In brief, it seems to be that the Bill is likely to do more harm than good to married woman and give lot of scope to uncommon litigation. In these circumstances I am not in favour of the Bill as it stands."

You will find that this District Magistrate of Coorg has definitely given his reasons why this Bill should not be enacted.

Then, Sir, I wish to quote the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer of the Government of Sind.

Sri S. T. Adityan (Madura and Ramanad cam Tinnevelly Non-Muhammadan Rural). On a point of order, Sir. Can a Member go on reading the opinions which have been circulated?

Mr. Deputy President: He is perfectly right in doing so. He has got the right to quote before the House the opinions which have been received in order to emphasise the point which he is making.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is it right morally?

Some Honourable Members: Why not?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I just wanted to give you the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer of the Government of Sind. Although Dr. Deshmukh consulted the lawyers, the legal luminaries from every province are against this Bill. Not only the lawyers, but even the Governments are against this Bill. No Government wants this Bill and I will presently show how these Governments themselves do not countenance this Bill at all. The Legal Remembrancer says

"The Bill seeks to amend the Special Marriage Act 1878, in so far as it applies to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains. This note is confined to the effect which this Bill will have on Hindus, but the same remarks would apply with respect to Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains."

A Hindu may marry according to Hindu rites or under the Special Marriage Act. His marriage under this Act produces certain consequences which are briefly these: A person married under this Act cannot contract any other marriage during the life time of his or her wife or husband (section 16). (Under Hindu Law a husband can marry any number of wives). The Indian Divorce Act applies to all marriages contracted under the Special Marriage Act. (The Hindu Law does not recognise or permit divorce). The marriage under this Act of any Hindu who is a member of an undivided family affects his severance from such family (section 22), that is to say, he ceases to be a member of the joint Hindu family. Succession to the property of a Hindu marrying under this Act will be regulated not by his personal law but by the Indian Succession Act 1935.

The Bill provides that persons who are already married to each other under any form recognised by Hindu Law may get their marriages registered under the Special Marriage Act, provided of course both parties agree to such registration.

I had been telling that the enactment is to register marriages which are already valid and not to register marriages which are invalid. That is also understood to be the case by the Legal Remembrancer of Sind. He goes on

"The effect of the registration is described in section 15A proposed to be inserted by clause 12 of the Bill. On the marriage being registered the previous marriage between the parties shall be deemed to have been dissolved, and the parties shall be deemed to be married under this Act as from the date of such registration, and the parties shall have all rights and be subject to all disabilities prescribed under the Act."

Now let us try to understand the position. That is the opinion which I have read out by the Legal Remembrancer of Sind. Now perhaps Dr. Deshmukh would say that he would amend this section 15A, by saying that the registration itself should date back to the date of solemnization of the original marriage. If that is so, then the children under the old marriage or under the personal law

of the party will be disinherited. They will be governed by the Succession Act and for no fault of their own because the husband and wife chose to get their marriage registered and the registration is to date back to the day of their marriage. There is no doubt that the children would be legalised, they would be legitimate, I grant it. But the right to succession which they acquire in the property by birth would disappear automatically. As the provision today stands in the Bill namely, that the marriage will be valid under the Civil Marriage Act from the date of the registration and the original marriage is dissolved, then the children by the original marriage may perhaps be treated as illegitimate. Their legitimacy would be questioned because the marriage was dissolved and the marriage is said to have come about by the registration itself. In both cases, whether you legalise the marriage on the date of registration or whether you date back the legality of the marriage or registration of the marriage from the date of the first marriage, the children prior to the registration are in jeopardy. Now, Sir, with regard to succession also, succession to the property of coparceners or succession to property of persons who are separate those sons will not be allowed to succeed because they are governed by the Succession Act and not by the personal law of the party. So many complications would arise. I point out to you the opinion of the Karachi Bar Association.

"My Association considered the matter and are opposed to the principle of the Bill. My Association thinks that it is not possible to provide for registration of marriages already celebrated under the Special Marriage Act 1872 and thus confer on the part - the right to divorce under certain circumstances, even though registration be by consent of the party. My Association are of the view that the Bill if passed may lead to such consent being improperly procured by the husband from the wife and the measure is likely to produce pernicious results."

That is the considered opinion of the Bar Association Karachi.

I now come to the opinion of the Provincial Hindu Sabha because after all my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh professes to be very proud of his Hinduism. Of course I do not know what his Hinduism consists in?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Certainly not what it consists in your case.

Mr. P. B. Gole: If he does not recognise any religion, if he does not want to recognise the sanctity of marriage, of course it is one part of it, in other respects also, Dr. Deshmukh will come and attack although this will not be the forum. If he wants to know the truth he can go before an Assembly of *Pandits* and *Shastis* well versed in our lore. He will certainly not be able to establish his point.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Why should I waste my time?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I see you do not want to show courtesy to our learned people. That is only natural.

An Honourable Member: Because he himself is not learned.

Mr. P. B. Gole: They are all learned people and if my friend says that the *Pandits* and religious heads do not understand anything of our religion, then he will have to come forward and establish his own religion. So long he has not come forward with that mission he is only attacking our old scriptures, attacking our old sacraments. Therefore it is time for us to consider whether he should be allowed to do so. After all this is a mixed Assembly wherein all religions are represented. This is not a purely Hindu Assembly and therefore any enactment which this Assembly will legislate should be referred to people belonging to the particular religion. I find that in the Select Committee my Honourable friend has suggested the names of Members who do not belong to the Hindu faith.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The House works as a legislature as a whole.

Mr. Deputy President: It has been the convention that members of other faiths come in just to help in making the law. They do not lay down the policy, they abstain from voting.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Mr. Gole has made a mistake in coming to this legislature. He should have gone to a religious body.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. The Honourable Member must be allowed to proceed.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I am not here to enact any such laws as Dr. Deshmukh wants. I am only here to protect my religion. I am going to protect it on the floor of this House. If Dr. Deshmukh is interested in attacking my religion, I am equally interested in protecting it. I have got a right to do so.

Sir, I was referring to the opinion of the Provincial Hindu Sabha on the Special Marriage Bill placed before the Central Assembly by Dr. Deshmukh.

"We are of opinion that it should not be passed into law on account of the following

They have given the reasons. I am only quoting one last reason given by them.

"If the Bill is passed into law divorce system will be in vogue in Hindu religion and account of this system Hindu religion will suffer and there will be quarrels in Hindu family."

That is the opinion of the Hindu Sabha. My Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh cannot say that the Hindu Sabha consists of orthodox people. That body consists of many patriots who have advanced views regarding Hindu law and Hindu custom. Therefore he cannot say that it consists purely of Pandits for whom Dr. Deshmukh has scant courtesy.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: For his information, I may tell him that Mr. Savarkar, President of the Hindu Maha Sabha gave his opinion in favour of divorce which I quoted on the floor of the House.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Not on this one. We are at present concerned only with this Bill. He may have given his opinion on some other Bill. That is neither here nor there. I am concerned with the present Bill as it is and I want to quote to the Honourable Member the opinion of the Hindu Sabha in particular.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: May I know, Sir, whether the convention about repetition will have no application when we quote other people's opinions?

Mr. Deputy President: I think the Honourable Member though he is entitled to quote the opinions, he should be brief and he should simply strengthen his case but not quote extensively because every Member is expected to have read the opinions which have been circulated. Only reference to certain portions is allowed ordinarily. But I fully realise that this Bill is a very controversial measure affecting a very extensive population of the country. Every opportunity must be given to Honourable Members to express their opinion but they should express the opinion in a brief manner and not repeat what has already been read by Honourable Members.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: May I bring one fact to the notice of the House, Sir? This Bill was sent for eliciting public opinion before the present Assembly was elected. Many of us have not read *in extenso* all the opinions which have been received. Therefore the presumption is not correct that all have read and in view of the fact that this is a controversial measure, it would be better that there should be a full frank and free discussion.

Mr. Deputy President: That is why I allowed the Honourable Member more latitude.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I am much obliged to you, Sir, for your ruling. I wanted to point out to the Honourable Mr. Rajagopalachari the object of my reading certain opinions. I was simply anxious to show that several governments, several Bar Associations and lawyers and Judges have considered this Bill as appertaining to marriages which are followed according to personal law. I am anxious to quote these opinions because somehow or other I got the impression—I believe the Honourable Mr. Rajagopalachari is also under the impression—that the Bill wants to cure a defect which existed in the original marriage, and for that the Bill is being enacted. That is not so. That is not so understood by

people who understand law Government themselves do not understand it like that nor do District and Sessions Judges, and so the Bill is not so innocent or simple as the Honourable Sri Rajagopalachari thinks I will not read the opinions at length but only the pertinent points The Assam Government says

"This Government are also not inclined to support the Bill which they consider has defects both in policy and substance In particular this Government agree with the opinions in paragraphs 1 and 3 of the letter from the Secretary of the Lawyers' Association, Gauhati, and the letter from the District Bar Association, Sylhet, and in paras (a), (b), and (d) of the letter from the Secretary of the Bar Association, Sunamganj."

So you find that not only are Government opposed to it but also the Bar Associations and they all agree that the Bill will give rise to many complications and will upset the whole fabric of society It should not be passed into law

I will then give the opinion of the District Judge of Poona Dr Deshmukh comes from the Bombay Presidency and he probably thinks—though wrongly—that the people of that province wanted such a Bill

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I do not think in terms of a small province, I think in terms of the whole country

Mr. P. B. Gole: The Honourable Member may also think as a citizen of the world But we are small people and only think in terms of our small Hindu society

The District Judge of Poona in the course of his observations says

"In the first place I am not satisfied about the necessity of an enactment of this kind The Special Marriage Act of 1872 was amended in 1923 and extended to Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains, and educated people who Dr Deshmukh thinks would like to take advantage of the modern ideas of marriage legislation have in fact done so during the last 23 years The amended Act has been on the statute book and such of them as have not availed themselves of its benefit should not be allowed at this stage to change their minds perhaps because it is to their advantage to do so in the altered circumstances of their lives Whatever be our view regarding the sanctity of the ties of the marriage the jural relations once created by that tie should not be allowed to be lightly disturbed to suit the convenience of the changed circumstances in the lives of married people The true remedy for unhappy marriages is not to tinker with the legal character of the marriage, which has subsisted for a number of years but to give relief by providing for dissolution of such marriages by legislation intended only for that purpose"

I quote this District Judge's views because he is a very learned man who has carefully studied this matter He goes on

"Section 18 of part IV of the Code made provision for registration of sacramental marriages as civil marriage, but under that section a subsisting marriage shall not be dissolved but after registration shall be deemed to have been a civil marriage for all purposes as from the date of the original ceremony and not from the date of the registration as the Bill seeks to provide The Bill radically diverges in directions from the impending principal enactment which it seeks to anticipate"

Then I come to opinions from Madras

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chhota Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan) Sir, is it necessary to quote all these opinions here?

Mr. P. B. Gole: The ruling has been given that I have a right to state the opinions here

Mr. Deputy President: But the Honourable Member must not waste the time of the House

Mr. P. B. Gole: I will not waste the time of the House

The Madras Government is against this measure The District Judge of Salem says (Rajaji's own district)

"I have consulted some of the judicial officers of the district and they are all agreed that the proposed measure is a dangerous innovation and is likely to lead to various complications."

The Collector of Godavari says:

"The proposed legislation makes more cumbersome the already long and cumbersome customary Hindu law of marriage."

He is also opposed to it

[Mr P B Gole]

Now, Sir, here is an opinion of a retired High Court Judge—Dewan Bahadur Sundaram Chettiar. He says

“The Special Marriage Bill introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly is in my opinion a hasty and imperfect piece of legislation.”

And he is of opinion that such Bills cannot be enacted as law.

Then, Sir, Mr Mudaliar, Advocate Madras, says

But there is no harm in clause 2 (Section 58 which is sought to be added) becoming law now. Clause 12 is of a very drastic nature.”

And he says he is entirely against it.

Then, Sir, Mr Vasudevan, Retired Health Inspector, Tellicherry, who seems to have examined the provisions of the Bill in greater detail, has also adversely commented on this Bill. I need not read out his opinion.

Now, Sir, I pass on to the next opinion which is by the Advocate-General, Madras who says

“The proposed legislation, as an amending Act, leads to the following difficulties

A Hindu can have more than one wife and in a case where he has a plurality of wives, he cannot obtain the benefit of the Act, because he cannot make a declaration.

Further the section says that no registration of the marriage under the amending Act, the marriage previously solemnised becomes null and void. If that is so, what is the law to be applied to the issues already born? Are they to have coparcenary rights, or are they to retain such right while the father himself becomes a divided member?

The group of sections made applicable includes Sections 17 to 19, and 22 to 26. The other sections 5 to 11 of the amendment are merely consequential, relating to the procedure. If under section 22, the marriage operates as division in status and under section 12 of the amending Act, the previous marriage is deemed to be dissolved, it will lead to considerable anomaly in regard to the rights of the issue in the Hindu coparcenary of which the father is a member. There is a *lacuna* in the amending Act because it says nothing about this matter.

Further when the purpose and intentment of the proposed legislation is merely to remove the incapacity for obtaining divorce, why should sections 22 to 24 be also made applicable? regard to the undoubted fact that these sections do involve a stigma and seem to concede that such a marriage under the Act is virtually an apostasy? If a marriage in consonance with the principles of monogamy is to be encouraged and if the right to obtain a divorce even in respect of Hindu marriage, is to be recognised as being in consonance with modern civilisation and culture it is indeed hard to understand why the parties to such a marriage should not retain their position in respect of succession, coparcenary, adoption, etc. as before. Here there is an incongruity.”

Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadian) As no one has spoken from Bihar may I ask the Honourable Member to read the opinions from Bihar?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I will gladly do it, I would not forget Bihar.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: Who can forget Bihar?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I was pointing out, Sir, that the opinion of a very responsible person like the Advocate General of Madras is entirely against this Bill.

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: It is not a correct statement. He has not yet come to any conclusion, he has only pointed out some difficulties.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I will show Sir, that he is of this opinion. I thought that my Honourable friend, Rajaji, will take my word for it, but if he wants me to read out the opinion of the Advocate General, I will do so.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Have we not got opinions of our own? Why should we be impressed by the opinions of others?

Mr. P. B. Gole: The Advocate General, Madras, goes on to say

“These considerations would strongly incline one to the view that instead of a truncated piece of legislation like this the law of marriage can be codified along with the rest of the Hindu Law, if that is possible and feasible, or as a self-contained one dealing with the various aspects and providing for the various contingencies. As an amendment, it seems to be a misfit.”

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I say a word, Sir? Why I asked the Honourable Member to read the opinions from Bihar was because the problem arising out of plurality of wives is very acute so far as that province is concerned

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Did the Honourable Member ascertain the ages of the persons who have given these opinions?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I suppose they are all *sui juris*!

The opinion of the Government of Bihar is as follows

"Most of the officers and non-official associations are against the proposed legislation"

"They are inclined to regard the vehemence of the opposition voiced by some highly placed and responsible officers as born of conservatism of an implacable type"

• So the opinion is vehemently against the proposed legislation

• This is what Justice Bennett of the Patna High Court says

"I do not think the Bill will serve any useful purpose, on the contrary, it is likely to create many difficulties—some of which were pointed out by the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy in the course of the debate on the Bill. Hindu Marriage Law Reform is likely to be more effective with less complications if it is done in the way proposed by the framers of the draft Hindu Code. This method of enabling people already married under particular religious rites to have some sort of a second marriage involving completely different civil rights and obligations, may be novel, but is fraught with dangerous possibilities, I am against the Bill."

This is the opinion of an eminent judge who cannot be said to be partial. He has learnt Hindu law and he knows what it is, and after studying Hindu law he finds this Bill so incongruous and so very against the principles of Hindu law that he is forced to give that opinion. Now, Sir, from Bihar, there is another "Shri Bharat Dharma Mahamandal." The opinion goes

"I am desired by the Council of the Shri Bharat Dharma Mahamandal, the All-India representative Association of *Sanatan* Hindus believing in the Vedas and other Hindu scriptures to register their strong protest against the Bill."

They have given at length their opinion about this Bill. I will only read to you two or four sentences from it

"The chastity of womanhood stands on the granite rock of the marriage ceremony. No king, no government, no society has ventured to affect changes in it since *Satyayuga*, the beginning of the first cycle of *Yugas*."

I am really surprised at the interjections of my Honourable friend, Dr. Deshmukh. He is so very anxious that all these religious scriptures and all the opinions of religious people should be treated with scant courtesy, they should be trifled with, and joked at, because Dr. Deshmukh enjoys a privilege which he would not get anywhere else.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: As usual, he is again wrong in attributing these things to me

Mr. P. B. Gole: In paragraph 5 it is said

"In short, the marriage sacrament is thus the backbone of Hindu religious and scientific sociology. Any attempt to introduce such drastic changes as are provided by the Bill will result in complete disruption of Hindu society and religion, and consequently be resented vehemently, producing undesirable reactions. The vast population of the *Sanatanist* Hindus forming the greater portion of the Indian population will take it as a direct hit against their cherished *Dharma*."

That is the opinion of a religious institution from Bihar

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal (Law Member) When opinions of one High Court Judge and Shri Bharat Dharma Mahamandal of Bihar have been cited here, may I request my Honourable friend to give the House the opinions of the Bihar Government and the Patna High Court Bar Association as well?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I will refer to them also. But you will find throughout, Sir, the opinion is overwhelmingly against this Bill, and therefore really speaking it would be dangerous to enact such a Bill into law

[Mr P. B. Gole]

The Commissioner of Chota Nagpur (I suppose Babu Ram Narayan Singh comes from there) says.

"To my mind the Bill is a some what clumsy attempt to deal with this important and delicate subject. I understand that a marriage solemnized under religious rights can be cancelled by marriage by registration is revolting to the Indian thought."

He has also pointed out the defects so far as the draft of the Bill is concerned

Then there is the Deputy Commissioner of Palamu. There is also the opinion of Dayawant Sahay Varma, Pleader, Daltonganj. He is against this Bill. He says

"Laws relating to different forms of marriage already in existence in India are comprehensive enough to accommodate men of all tastes and fashions living on the Indian soil."

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech the next time it comes up

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 16th November 1946.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

SATURDAY, 16th NOVEMBER, 1946

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OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 16th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

SARAI PURANI IDGAH HOUSING SCHEME IN DELHI

625. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Health Department please state

(a) if it is a fact that Sarai Purani Idgah Scheme for re-housing the poor in Delhi is executed, and

(b) number of families getting the benefit of that scheme?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) The scheme has not yet been finally approved

(b) The Delhi Improvement Trust is taking a census of the persons who are likely to be affected by the execution of the scheme, and the number of families which will be entitled to the benefits of the state-aided re-housing scheme will be known on completion of the census

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: May I know from the Honourable Member the stage at which the scheme stands at present?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: The scheme has been published for public objections and it is now under the consideration of the Trust

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: How long will it take to get their final approval?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: I cannot say that

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: May I know if the location of the alternative accommodation proposed to be provided for the persons coming under the scheme is close to the place of the scheme?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: I understand that the whole question of the accommodation of those who will be displaced is under the consideration of the Trust

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: May I know what is the shape and design of the houses which are going to be provided to those people and whether they will have electricity and water supply?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: Yes, Sir Electricity and water will certainly be provided As regards the design of the houses I shall have to ask for notice of that question.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will notice be served upon the inhabitants when the scheme is finally approved?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: Yes, Sir. I believe that notice to vacate will be given in the case of those persons who are required to vacate their houses.

RESERVATION OF POSTS OF CIVIL SURGEONS FOR EUROPEAN I.M.S. OFFICERS

626. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Health Department please state the steps which the Interim Government have taken or propose to take to remove the reservation of several posts of Civil Surgeons for European I. M. S. Officers only?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: The posts are reserved under orders passed by the Secretary of State. The whole question of the termination of the I.M.S. (Civil) as a Secretary of State's service is under the active consideration of Government.

Seth Govind Das: Are the Government of India going to represent to the Secretary of State that such reservation is detrimental to the interests of this country?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: I have said that the matter is under the consideration of the Government and the point which the Honourable Member has made will certainly be borne in mind.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if it is a fact that in Delhi we can have only a European I M S as civil surgeon and not an Indian?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: The post of Civil Surgeon, Delhi, is one of the posts which are reserved for European officers under the rules made by the Secretary of State.

REMOVAL OF COLOUR PREJUDICE AND FAVOURITISM IN W A C (I)

627. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state the steps which the Interim Government have taken or propose to take to put an end to colour prejudice and favouritism in the W A C (I)?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Interim Government, Sir, are satisfied that steps to prevent favouritism or colour prejudice have been taken, and I may remind the Honourable Member that this Corps will be disbanded entirely by 1st April 1947.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What are the steps that have been taken to remove this?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The instructions of Government.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could we know the nature of the colour prejudice and favouritism?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: If ever there was any colour prejudice or favouritism—and I deny that there was—that will now be stopped.

RECOVERY OF EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN INDIA ON BEHALF OF U K. AND EASTERN GROUP COUNTRIES

628. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Under how many accounts has the Honourable the Finance Member incurred expenditure in India for and on behalf of (i) the Government of the United Kingdom, and (ii) the Eastern Group countries?

(b) How much has this expenditure been during each of the last five years?

(c) How much expenditure is still being incurred, and for what purposes?

(d) By what processes and in what manner have these moneys been recovered?

(e) If they have not been recovered, what steps are Government taking for their recovery?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Mainly under the Defence Service Account and to a minor extent on Civil Account mainly in respect of the following items—

- (1) Evacuees.
- (2) Internees
- (3) Lascars' pensions
- (4) Requisitioned ships
- (5) Mica bonus

(b) On Defence Services Account the expenditure has been as follows:

	In lakhs of rupees
1941-42	193.53
1942-43	305.99
1943-44	377.87
1944-45	455.13
1945-46 (Estimate)	340.56

The figures for the expenditure on Civil Account are not readily available but are comparatively small. They are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The net expenditure that will arise in the Defence Services Accounts in 1946-47 on behalf of the Government of the U.K. is estimated at Rs 84.28 lakhs, mainly on pay and allowances of Indian troops serving overseas on Imperial duties, pay and allowances of troops in India and other formations required for the maintenance of troops and expenditure on stores for these troops, transportation charges, accommodation and other miscellaneous charges and terminal charges such as war gratuities, release leave pay, etc. In this connection a reference is invited to the Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget Estimates for the Defence Services 1946-47. Except for a trifling amount representing arrear transactions, there will be no expenditure incurred on behalf of the Eastern Group Countries in 1946-47. The extent of the expenditure on civil items mentioned in reply to part (a), which continues to be incurred, will be known when figures have been collected as indicated in reply to part (b) of the question.

(d) and (e) Under the Financial Settlement regulating the allocation of defence expenditure between His Majesty's Government and India during the war, the expenditure incurred by the Government of India on defence services and supplies less that portion debitable to India revenues is recovered currently from His Majesty's Government. That Government's liabilities in respect of the previous years have all been discharged by sterling payments. Similarly expenditure incurred in the current year on behalf of His Majesty's Government is also being recovered currently in the same manner. The civil expenditure is likewise being recovered from His Majesty's Government in sterling.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member examine the question whether, in regard to the supplies made to the Eastern Group countries (in which, I understand Australia and South Africa are included) any moneys for the past expenditure incurred by the Government of India on their behalf are still due and, if so, whether those countries should not be called upon to pay them to India directly instead of these debts being put in the sterling balances to the credit of India?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I do not think there are any outstandings but I will have the matter examined as suggested by my Honourable friend.

RENT OF REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES

625. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state by how much the rent of requisitioned properties has been brought down from the figure of nine crores of rupees a year given at the time of the last session of the Assembly?

(b) Which classes of premises are still under occupation, and why?

(c) Why did the process of de-requisitioning take so long?

(d) Is it a fact that for de-requisitioning, special men have been called out from England? If so, what are their names and their salaries?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The position as at 30th September 1946 is as follows

	In lakhs of rupees
Rental of requisitioned property	630
Rental of hired property	152

There has been a decrease of Rs 1.84 crores since December-1945 and this has been achieved by the release of 4,152 buildings and 984 lands.

(b) I lay a statement on the table showing the classes of premises still under occupation.

(c) There is no longer any delay in the process of de-requisitioning once it is decided that the property can be released, but the requirements of the Armed Forces are still considerable, because those coming back from overseas are almost as many as those being demobilised.

(d) Yes, Sir. Of a total of 197 officers, 30 have been brought out from England. Three Deputy Assistant Directors and twenty-three Area Lands, HIRINGS and Disposals Officers have been recruited in the United Kingdom. A statement is laid on the table showing their names and salaries.

Statement (in reply to part (b))
Classes of premises still under occupation

Classes	Reasons
(i) Schools and other Educational Establishments.	{ Being used as hospitals and by other administrative units. The release of this class of accommodation is being given the highest priority.
(ii) Hospitals	
(iii) Public Buildings and Institutes	{ Only 4 premises are affected in the whole country. Will be released as hospital requirements of the Armed Forces fall.
(iv) Commercial and Industrial buildings.	
(v) Storage accommodation	{ Being used in most cases owing to the increased clerical staff of establishments and will be released as demobilization progresses.
(vi) Residential buildings	
(vii) Other buildings including Hospitals.	{ Cannot be released until it is possible to dispose of stores. Until the establishment of the Armed Forces is reduced still further it will be necessary to retain a proportion of the buildings for residential purposes.

Statement (in reply to part (d))

	Salary Per mensem	Overseas pay per mensem
	Rs.	£
<i>Deputy Assistant Directors—</i>		
Mr. J. K. Brittan	1,100—\$7/8-1,250	25
„ J. Parry		
„ Gallaher		
<i>Area Lands, HIRINGS and Disposals Officers—</i>		
Mr. B. G. Abrahams	750—25—850	25
„ H. V. Littler		
„ V. W. G. Barrell		
„ P. G. White		
„ A. I. G. Harding		
„ A. Hinton		
„ I. E. Hills		
„ K. B. Eaker		

	Salary per mensem	Overseas pay per mensem
	Rs.	£
Mr. L. Strudwick	750—25—850	25
" P. A. Greig		
" E. Lake		
" E. G. Brown		
" J. M. Ddings		
" L. S. Gillard		
" H. F. Midworth		
" L. A. Harrison		
" D. O. J. Duncan		
" H. E. F. Miller		
" W. J. H. Shepherd	Norm.—8 of these officers have been engaged on a salary above the minimum.	
" H. C. Morris		
" J. B. Eastmure		
" D. G. Baker		
" K. L. Eaves		

In addition the undermentioned, who were serving as military officers in L. H. & D. Service, on 1.1.1946 from the Army, have been engaged on civilian contracts in the appointments they held as military officers:—

Assistant Directors—

Mr. O. R. Beale	1,500—50—1,700	30
" E. W. Popple		

Deputy Assistant Directors—

Mr. L. P. Brooks	1,100—37/8—1,250	25
" A. S. Gull		

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why, from this enormous expenditure of Rs 9 crores a year or Rs 75 lakhs a month, the military department have failed to bring it down to anything less than Rs 7 crores, and why twelve months after the war this country should still go on bearing this very heavy expenditure? May I know whether it is due to the slowness of demobilisation, and whether demobilisation has not taken place according to the schedule originally fixed? May I know whether there have been any special causes for the delay in demobilisation?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I suggest that all these questions have been gone into fully in connection with the debate on the Bill to continue certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land. I have given a reply to all these questions before, and I hope the House will not wish me to repeat what I have already said.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am asking the Honourable Member to make clear to this House now why a heavy sum of Rs. 7 crores should still be borne by this country, and whether it is due to incompetence or dereliction or whether it is

due to delay in demobilisation which has left us with bill of Rs. 7 crores a year, which is a very heavy outlay.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I explained before that the armed forces of the country—the men in uniform—were still roughly four times the normal peace-time strength. I have already explained that we had large scale movements of troops from the east and from the west, and for these reasons—(these are the main reasons) and also because we have got property worth crores of rupees to be stored and guarded, etc., all of which require accommodation—the progress of derequisitioning is not so rapid as we ourselves would like it to be. As regards the particular point about the progress of demobilisation, demobilisation is slightly behind schedule—for reasons which I need not go into at the moment—but on the whole demobilisation has not been delayed to the extent the suggestion seems to be.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that hundreds of bungalows which were built by Government during the course of the war round about various cantonments in India are being demolished and auctioned, why is it not possible for the Honourable Member to retain them and accommodate these officers who are coming from overseas in these hutments, so that the properties now in the possession of the Government which were requisitioned may be derequisitioned in the immediate future?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I can assure the Honourable Member straightaway that wherever there is accommodation available for troops coming from overseas theatres, special accommodation will not be reserved for them.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why not derequisition all these properties which are in the possession of the army and remove all those officers who have enjoyed these palatial houses in the past to the inconvenience of the civil population, and shift them into hutment accommodation round about the various cantonments in India, which are now being auctioned for a song and are being demolished and thrown away?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not accept the implication that this happens on a scale on which my Honourable friend suggests that it exists.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Why was it necessary to import 80 European officers for derequisitioning?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I explained that in connection with another question only on the 13th November persons with technical qualifications were required, and unfortunately in spite of advertisements in the press here we could not get the requisite number of Indians possessing the technical qualifications.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Is it a fact that the academic qualifications were so engineered as to enable only Europeans to occupy these posts?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not think so.

Seth Govind Das: Are they being requisitioned temporarily or for permanent posts?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Requisitions are always temporary!

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is a fact that among these 80 men lawyers have been imported from Great Britain?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I cannot say offhand, the lawyers might also be engineers or surveyors, it is quite possible that a lawyer may be a surveyor as well.

Diwan Chaman Lal: That means that my Honourable friend has not actually examined the position and therefore he is not in a position to tell the House what his actual qualifications are?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That is not so; I have said that the men who have been recruited are those holding the necessary technical qualifications; if in addition to those technical qualifications, any one happens to be a lawyer, I do not think that it is a disqualification.

Mr. President: Order, order. I think this is getting into an argument.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether in view of the food shortage in this country, Government will give first priority to release agricultural lands that have been requisitioned by the military authorities?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Wherever possible I should say that agricultural land which was not immediately required has been given out for purposes of cultivation.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if at the time of the original requisitioning any such group of men—30 Europeans—were brought here for requisitioning purposes?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If there was no need at the time of requisitioning to get these officers, why is it now that you have had to get thirty men out from England for derequisitioning? I want an answer to this question.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The volume of work went on increasing since the process of requisitioning began, and as the volume of work increased the number of officers had also to be increased.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know in what period the demobilisation is expected to be completed, so that that particular reason for continuing requisitioning would drop out?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I think the bulk of the armed forces will have been demobilised by October 1947.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Do these legal advisers know anything about Indian law and Indian conditions? Have they any other qualifications than knowing English law?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: How does the question of legal adviser arise out of this question, Sir?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: One of the thirty is a legal adviser?

Mr. President: There will be no further argument. I am calling the next question.

NON-INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN INDIA

630. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state how many prisoners of war of non-Indian origin have been maintained in India, and where?

(b) What is the total amount of expenditure incurred during each of the last five years?

(c) Is any expense being incurred now? If so, how much per month?

(d) What steps have been taken for their repatriation?

(e) Are these moneys recovered from the Government of the United Kingdom? If so, in what form? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The total number of prisoners of war of non-Indian origin maintained in India was 70,933 comprising 68,990 Italians and 2,548 Japanese. They were maintained at the following places:

Bangalore, Bhopal, Ramgarh, Dehra Dun, Yol, Bikaner and Baleli.

(b) The total amount of expenditure incurred during each of the last five years on the maintenance of prisoners of war of non-Indian origin is as follows:

	In lakhs of rupees
1941-42	8.76
1942-43	6.65
1943-44	7.23
1944-45	4.58
1945-46	2.90
Total	30.72

(c) The expenditure is now diminishing from month to month as prisoners are being repatriated. The expenditure for the month of September is estimated at Rs 8 lakhs.

(d) All Japanese prisoners of war were repatriated in May 1946. The number of Italians repatriated up to date is 65,192 and shipping has been allotted to repatriate the remainder by the end of November 1946.

(e) The entire expenditure on the maintenance of Italian and Japanese prisoners of war captured beyond Indian borders is recovered from His Majesty's Government in sterling like other recoverable expenditure incurred by the Government of India on behalf of His Majesty's Government. The cost of maintenance of Japanese prisoners captured within Indian borders during the Assam campaign is the liability of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My Honourable friend gave figures which were not quite intelligible. Does he mean Rs 8 crores a year was spent, or was it Rs 80 lakhs a month?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I gave the figure for 1941-42 as Rs 876 lakhs. All these figures are given in lakhs.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know what portion of this Rs 80 crores has been debited to the account of the Indian exchequer and how much to His Majesty's Government?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have not got the exact figure, but I think for purposes of allocating costs, the number of prisoners on whose account the cost was debited to the Government of India was 650.*

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: The rest goes to the account of H M G?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Exactly so.

Seth Govind Das: May I know, when these prisoners were detained in India on account of imperial policy, why should India bear the cost of their remaining here?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I said that the cost of all prisoners captured outside the borders of India had been debited to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Apart from these costs, may I know whether the Government of India have incurred any heavy capital costs for putting up their camps and for their transit or in any other manner? I think these are maintenance costs which the Honourable Member mentioned.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

BURMA REFUGEES SERVING IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

631. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many Burma refugees are still serving in the Central Government and in which Departments are they?

(b) Has the Government of Burma demanded the services of such men?

(c) What is the present position of these negotiations and how many men have already been sent back and how many are going to be sent from the services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a), (b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course. The Government of Burma have asked for the return of some of their employees and this request has in general been complied with. The remainder are employed only in temporary posts and to the extent that they are non-Indians, they will be covered by the recent orders about the ban on the employment of non-Indians.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that there is a lot of heart burning among regular Indian servants of the Indian Government that some

of the places which should have been given to them have been given to these refugees, non-Indians from Burma and if that is so, will the Honourable Member make inquiries and try and repatriate these non-Indian refugees, who may be in Government service now, to their own country?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The inquiry which my Honourable friend wants to be made will be made and necessary steps will be taken

RADIO LICENCES IN INDIA

632. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the total number of radio licences issued in India and the comparative figures for the last five years?

(b) What was the total number of radios imported in India since the beginning of the war?

(c) How many radios imported on Government account are still with Government?

(d) What has happened to the radios, which were in use by the soldiers and how many are there?

(e) How many new broadcasting stations are going to be installed and is the machinery for them on order? If so, where and at what price?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The total number of current radio licenses in British India on the 31st August 1946 was 2,16,420 The figures for the previous five years are as follows

1941	1,36,804
1942	1,61,700
1943	1,71,616
1944	1,88,019
1945	2,02,224

The figures for the Indian States are not available

(b) The total number of radio sets imported in India through the commercial channels is 1,51,266 Radio sets imported on Government account total 53,917

(c) None

(d) Wireless sets issued to units remain the property of that unit until its disbandment when the sets are returned for re-distribution Due to the extent of troop movements to and from India during 1945 and 1946 and due to heavy wastage which occurred in action, it is not possible to state how many sets originally issued are still in service A census is being taken

(e) Plans, both long-term and short-term, have been prepared for the development of broadcasting in India The number of new centres that can be established will depend mainly upon finance, the availability of equipment and the provision of technical staff The scheme has, however, not yet been finalized and no order for the machinery has so far been placed The last part of the question does not arise

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the very small number of licences in this country and the very useful purpose which broadcasting is performing for the public, may I know whether Government will either undertake themselves or subsidize a scheme for the production of a popular radio set at a very cheap price, from Rs 20 to Rs 30?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Radio sets at cheaper rates are being prepared by some important companies and they have approached the Government about the matter. It is being considered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: That important company referred to by the Honourable the Home Member is offering those sets at about Rs. 95 and I feel that having regard to the very small intrinsic value of the raw material involved in this article, if it were properly managed, it could be produced at

between Rs 20, 30 and 40 Will Government have an inquiry made into this problem and if necessary help and subsidise the manufacture of sets at a cheap price?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If, as is suggested, cheaper sets can be made, the suggestion will certainly be examined.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that some time ago a model cheap set was manufactured by the Government, for being copied by other manufacturers in this country, at a cost of Rs 50?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I want notice I am not aware of that

CREATION OF CIVIC GUARDS AND CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS

633. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether Government are aware of the disturbances that are breaking out at different places, and

(b) whether Government propose to revive the system of civic guards and to establish people's own civil defence corps in all parts of the country in co-operation with Provincial Governments under the authority of the Central Government and in co-ordination with the military command?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes

(b) The organisation of civic guards was formed under an ordinance which has expired In so far as the Provinces are concerned, the question whether the same or similar organisation should be formed is within the discretion of the Provincial Governments

Seth Govind Das: Are Government contemplating the establishment of civic guards in the Centrally administered areas?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No, Sir

Seth Govind Das: Will Government then consider that some sort of co-ordination of these civic guards is necessary, if these are established in the provinces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Different provinces have different conditions and the Government do not propose to interfere with the discretion of the Provincial Governments

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the information of Government, whether civic guards like cholera pills, create the trouble themselves?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether disturbances are taking place in the city of Delhi? Actually some stabbings have taken place and the police do not come to the aid of the people there?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That question does not arise. This question relates to civic guards

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It arises out of the first part whether Government are aware of the disturbances that are breaking out at different places

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: This question refers to the whole of India, not Delhi only.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Delhi is included in it.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: But the stray stabbing cases are not included in it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Until some stabbing and death take place, the police are not to be found on the scene The whole of last night there was trouble here at Delhi

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: For the last ten days, the police have been working practically all the 24 hours and they have been thoroughly

exhausted. I do not think it is wise to encourage running after police help at every place. People must learn to defend themselves.

Seth Govind Das: Under these circumstances, do not the Government think the civic guards would be helpful to the police in the centrally administered areas?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The system of civic guards for that purpose was found to be very unsuitable.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Honourable Member want to encourage hand to hand fight?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is now getting into a discussion.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: How do the Government propose to help these people?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: By encouraging the people to defend themselves.

UNIFORM POLICY AS LICENCES FOR FIREARMS UNDER THE INDIAN ARMS ACT.

634. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Provincial Governments are, in practice, following varied policies in issuing licences for arms, firearms and ammunition under the Indian Arms Act,

(b) whether Government propose to initiate a uniform policy throughout the country in the matter of granting these licences on a systematised standard basis based on certain well-considered qualifications thought fit by Government, and

(c) whether Government propose to add in the schedule of exemptees under the Indian Arms Act all the members of both the Houses of all the Provincial Legislatures as also the members of the Constituent Assembly?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes

(b) Having regard to the different circumstances prevailing in different Provinces, the inter-relation between law and order and grant of arms licences, and the impossibility of laying down any hard and fast standard rules on the subject, Government consider that the discretion at present vested in the Provinces should remain.

(c) Government do not consider that such exemption is necessary. I have no doubt that the application of individual members who need protection by guns or other arms will meet with a satisfactory response from District and Provincial administrations.

Seth Govind Das: Are the Government aware that even for those people who hold licences it is not possible to get these arms if they go in the market to purchase them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Licences to members referred to in the question will be freely given if applied for.

Seth Govind Das: I am not asking about the licences. What I want to ask is that in spite of the fact that people do possess licences and yet when they go to the market and try to buy these arms, they are not available in the market?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am not aware of the fact that the licences find any difficulty in the purchase of arms because we have not received any such complaints.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: How is it that in the province of Bombay, though arms are available, people were prevented from buying them? Is the Honourable Member aware of the order issued by the Government of Bombay to the dealers of arms and ammunition in the province of Bombay that they cannot sell arms to any one? If so, will the Honourable Member consider the-

urgency of removing this ban which has been already issued by the Bombay Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not think that the Government of India can interfere with the discretion of the Bombay Government in this matter

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: As a measure of prevention of offences against women, will the Government consider the desirability of including women-folk of our country in the exemption list?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, Sir, I am sure the Provinces will do the needful in the matter

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that dacoits and burglars have arms without any licences and that the law only operates against law-abiding citizens?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The dacoits and burglars have a general licence and therefore a Government licence is not necessary

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of issuing instructions to the Local Government of Delhi to renew all such licences as were cancelled for the simple reason that ammunition was not bought by the licencees during a certain period?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If those licencees whose licences have been cancelled will apply, the matter will be considered

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that dacoits and burglars have no need to take licences, will the Honourable Member repeal the Arms Act and allow law-abiding persons also to have arms without licences?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Certainly the law will be abrogated when the whole populace becomes burglars and dacoits

BROADCASTING STATION AT JUBBULPORE

635. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that two Broadcasting Stations are already located in the Marathi speaking areas, *viz*, Bombay and Aurangabad,

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that broadcasts from Delhi and Lucknow Stations are made in a highly Persianised Urdu,

(c) whether Government have decided to construct a Broadcasting Station at Nagpur, a Marathi speaking town in the Marathi speaking areas; and

(d) whether Government will consider the advisability of establishing this Station at Jubbulpore in the Hindi speaking area?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, but the Broadcasting Station at Aurangabad belongs to the Hyderabad State

(b) Government have received some complaints to this effect and the whole language question is at present under my active consideration

(c) and (d) The Honourable Member seems to be under a misapprehension. Language is not the only criterion for new installations and it is possible to cover two different but adjoining linguistic tracts from the same station. Government do not, therefore, propose to decide the question of a suitable location for a transmitter in C. P. on linguistic basis only

STUDENTS FOR SPECIALIZED TRAINING SENT ABROAD BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

636. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of students sent abroad by the Central Government at their (Government's) expense for higher and specialised training during the last five years, with their quotas from each Province, the country to which they were sent, the subjects for the training or the study for which they were sent and the expenses that have so far been and are hereafter to be incurred on them?

(b) Is it a fact that a considerable number of these students was sent to Great Britain, though higher and more advanced technological training could be had only in the United States of America, and agricultural training in the U S S R ?

(c) Do Government propose to revise this policy and send students in future to countries where best facilities for technological and agricultural training of the most advanced type are available?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Two statements giving the information asked for are laid on the table of the House. These statements include only those Central Government scholars who have actually sailed. In addition, there are 102 selected candidates who are awaiting either admission or passage. No student was sent abroad by Government for studies during 1942 to 1944. A statement showing the revised estimates of expenditure for 1945-46 (Rs. 9.05 lakhs) and budget estimates for 1946-47 (Rs. 46.07 lakhs) in connection with the training of these scholars is also laid on the table of the House. It is not possible to give exact figures of expenditure as it will involve a great deal of calculation on the basis of when each individual student sailed.

(b) During the last two years 199 students have been sent to the U.S.A. and eight students to Canada, 214 to the U.K. and two to Australia. The country and institution in each case has been determined by the availability of suitable facilities for the particular subject for which a student was selected. Admission for all the students selected for one subject cannot be secured in a single institution or country. As regards the U.S.S.R. even if training facilities were available and even if we ignore the question of language it is not probable that that country would at the present moment receive foreign students.

(c) The scholars selected for advanced studies overseas are being sent only to those countries and institutions where suitable facilities for the subject concerned exist and are available for Indian students and no question of a revision of policy arises.

Statement showing the subjects and number of students sent overseas by the Central Government during 1915 and 1946

Subjects	From 1945 Batch		From 1946 Batch		Australia	Total
	U. K.	U. S. A.	U. K.	U. S. A.		
1. Aeronautical Engineering	2	4	3			9
2. Agriculture	20	23	1	3		47
3. Agricultural Statistics			1			1
4. Animal Husbandry	4	8	1	4	2	19
5. Astronomy . . . . .	..	..	..	1		1
6. Automobile Engineering	4	1		1	..	6
7. Biochemistry . . . . .	..	5				5
8. Biological Services Technicians . . . . .	..	3				3
9. Building Research	2	9				11
10. Cellulose	2		1			3
11. Ceramics	3	2	1	..		6

Subjects	From 1945 Batch		From 1946 Batch		Australia	Total
	U. K.	U. S. A.	U. K.	U. S. A.		
12. Chemical Engineering . .	8	8	.	.	.	16
13. Cinematography . . .	..	2	.	3	.	5
14. Dairy	2	6	1	1	.	10
15. Dam Design and Hydrology	.	.	..	4	..	4
16. Economics	3	5	1	..	.	9
17. Education General . .	14	.	4	4	..	22
18. Education Technical . .	.	.	5	.	.	5
19. Electrical Engineering . .	8	13	..	1	..	22
20. Fermentation . . .	1	2	.	..	..	3
21. Fisheries	10	5	..	1	.	16
22. Fuel Technology . . .	2	5	5	.	.	12
23. Forestry	2	.	.	.	..	2
24. Geology	5	1	6	.	..	12
25. Geophysics . . . .	..	.	.	1	.	1
26. Glass Technology . . .	4	1	1	..	..	6
27. History . . . .	.	..	1	.	.	1
28. Horticulture . . . .	..	10	.	5	.	15
29. Industrial and Applied Chemistry	16	3	5	.	..	24
30. Mechanical Engineering .	9	7	.	..	..	16
31. Medical Librarian . .	.	.	1	.	.	1
32. Mercantile Marine Engg. .	1	.	2	..	..	3
33. Metallurgical Engineering (including Steel Pipes and Casting).	8	5	.	2	.	15
34. Meteorology	4	.	.	.	.	4
35. Mining	3	1	2	.	.	6
36. Paints and Varnishes . .	2	2	..	1	.	5
37. Pharmacy	5	.	.	.	.	5
38. Plastics	3	2	..	1	.	6
39. Public Health Engg. . .	.	4	..	.	..	4
40. Pulp and Paper . . . .	.	1	..	..	.	1
41. Radio Engineering . . .	11	14	2	3	..	30
42. River Research and Hydraulics	.	2	..	..	..	2

Subjects	From 1945 Batch		From 1946 Batch		Australia	Total
	U. K.	U. S. A.	U. K.	U. S. A.		
43. Rubber Technology .	2	2	.	1		6
44. Scientific Instruments . .	2	2				5
45. Soil Conservation . .		3				3
46. Statistics . .	2	2		2		6
47. Textile Engineering . .	3		.			3
48. Wood . .	2	2		2	.	6
Grand Total .	170	166	44	41	2	423

Statement Showing, According to Provinces, the number of Students sent abroad by the Central Government at their expense for advanced studies in 1945 and 1946

	1945	1946	Total
Total number selected for the award of Scholarships.	355	213	568
Total No. of Central Overseas Scholars at present	339	186	525

Numbers actually sent abroad so far are given below :—

Assam	5	2
Bengal	63	14
Bihar	13	1
Bombay	24	.
C. P. & Berar	9	...
Madras	41	14
N. W. F. P.	5	2
Orissa	2	2
Punjab	69	19
Sind	NH	1
U. P.	50	13
Delhi	1	2
Alwar	1	...
Banoda	2	...

	1945	1946	Total
Cochin	1	2	
Gwalior	1	...	
Hyderabad	6	2	
Indore	1	1	
Jaipur	1	..	
Jodhpur	1	...	
Kashmir	1	1	
Kotah	1	...	
Mysore	24	7	
Nabha	2	..	
Naraingarh	1	...	
Patiala	1	...	
Travancore	12	3	
Kapurthala		1	
Total	36	27	
Grand Total		43	

Statement showing the estimate of expenditure for 1945-46 and 1946-47 on the training of students selected by the Government of India for advanced studies abroad

	Revised Estimates for 1945-46	Budget Estimates for 1946-47
	Rs.	Rs.
(a) Scheme of Scholarships for Advanced Studies Abroad :—		
(i) In India and U. S. A.	4,35,000	28,00,000
(ii) In U. K.	4,00,000	17,00,000
(b) Central State Scholars and Scheduled Caste Scholars :—		
(i) In India	25,000	8,000
(ii) In U. K.	40,000	30,000
(iii) In U. S. A.	5,000	19,000
Total	9,05,000	46,07,000

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that some students were sent abroad for such studies as they can have in this country and the degrees which they got in foreign countries are considered even lower than the degree which they can have in India?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: I do not agree

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries about it because the sending of students has been going on for a long time?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Each time when an application is received, the subjects are noted and the point mentioned by the Honourable Member is fully examined

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that a large number of students who have been granted scholarships are stranded in India awaiting passage? If so, what arrangements are Government making to expedite their going abroad and not wasting their time here?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Every effort is made to secure passages as early as possible. There is no question of stranding when the students are in their own native land and they are looked after properly by the Government as long as they are waiting to go.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that after their selection and before they are admitted in any college, these students join any college in the United Kingdom? Some students who were granted M A degrees in this country went to the United Kingdom and finding no accommodation in the original places fixed up for them had to be admitted into Matriculation courses in those Universities?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: As far as I have examined the papers, such absurd situations have not arisen, but difficulties were there and we are trying our best to overcome them

Sri V. O. Vellingiri Gounder: Government have answered that a certain number of students were sent abroad for training in agricultural engineering this year, may I know what is their number and to what countries they were sent?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: The correct answer can be given only after notice

Sri S. T. Adityan: Is it not cheaper to execute higher studies in this country and thus save the amount that is spent over these foreign studies?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: It may be ultimately cheaper, but the question of urgency and time also arises in the matter.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May we know the nature of the care that the Government takes of those who, according to me, are stranded and according to the Honourable Member are not stranded, and who in any case, are wasting their time waiting for passages and not knowing what to do and in the meantime losing touch with their studies?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: The persons who have been selected and who are not able to go immediately for one reason or another either hold appointments already or they are admitted to other suitable institutions here or they are given a maintenance allowance during the period. This is what I have gathered from the papers. We need not exaggerate the difficulties

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the present Government satisfied about the desirability of sending students in such large numbers for all and sundry subjects to be studied in foreign countries?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Even the present Government is of opinion that for rapid industrialisation in certain matters students and scholars have to be sent abroad.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government aware of the case of a student who was sent abroad for higher studies in bio-chemistry but was obliged to learn fisheries for want of accommodation in bio-chemistry class?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: There is no great harm in a young man turning from one subject to another.

RESEARCH ON ATOMIC STUDIES.

637. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Education please state:

(a) what steps are being taken in this country in the field of atomic studies and research in its theoretical and applied spheres,

(b) if any laboratory has been or is being contemplated to be set up for this purpose in this country, and

(c) whether any students have been sent to the United States of America for the study of this subject, and what facilities have been granted or assured by the Government of the United States to these students for such study?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has set up a Research Committee—

(i) to explore the availability of raw materials capable of generating atomic energy,

(ii) to suggest ways and means of harnessing the raw materials for the production of atomic energy,

(iii) to keep in touch with similar organisations functioning in other countries and to make suggestions for the co-ordination of the work of this Committee on an international basis

On the recommendations of this Committee, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have formed two sub-committees (i) to draw up concrete proposals for a geological and physico-chemical survey of Travancore Thorium-bearing and associated minerals, and (ii) for carrying out a geological and physico-chemical survey of the uranium-bearing minerals of India with the help of special geologists to be deputed by the Geological Survey of India in this connection

As for the theoretical aspect of atomic studies the Universities in India have been requested to encourage instructions in the theory and the experimental technique of atomic physics

(b) No laboratory has been set up nor is it contemplated to set up one, but the Government of India have sanctioned the following three schemes to encourage atomic research

(1) Establishment of a Betatron at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay—Rs 82,400,

(2) Development of a school of nuclear physics and biophysics at Calcutta under Prof M. N. Saha—Rs 1,10,000,

(3) Research on trans-uranic elements, on the nuclear fission of heavy elements and on the absorption cross-section of neutrons at the Bose Research Institute, Calcutta—Rs 22,400

In addition to these grants the Government of India make a block grant of Rs 75,000 per annum to the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research for experimental Research on cosmic rays

(c) Atomic Research is still a jealously guarded secret in the United States & America. It has therefore not been possible to secure research facilities for our students in that country. Three students are however, engaged on research in 'Nuclear Physics' in the United Kingdom.

It will be observed that we have not been sleeping over the question of atomic research

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government see that at least in this country atomic energy is not used for destruction of life and property and for preparing bombs but is used for constructive work?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: That, that is the object may be seen throughout the answer I have given

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Are the Government aware of the fact that one of the Professors of Aligarh University was given a scholarship by a society in England to carry on research work and he has already proceeded to Manchester?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: If that is correct, I am glad.

• REGISTRATION OF NEW FIRMS AFTER CONTROL OF CAPITAL ISSUES

*†638. **Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how many new firms have been registered in India after Capital Issues were controlled?

(b) How many and which of them have been registered in partnership with foreign interests?

(c) Is it a fact that some of these partnerships have a share not only in the capital but also in control, management and ownership?

(d) If so, what are the names of such concerns?

(e) Is it a fact that arrangements are being negotiated or are completed for starting Textile machinery manufacturing undertaking in this country on the basis of foreign partnership in capital and management?

(f) If so, what are the reasons for allowing foreign vested interests to be created in the new sphere of manufacture of textile machinery?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: If the Honourable Member has in mind firms registered under the Indian Partnership Act, parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Law Member, if he has in mind firms registered under the Indian Companies Act, then to the Honourable the Commerce Member. Parts (e) and (f) should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. I regret I am not in a position to give the information asked for.

CONTROL OF ALLIANCE BETWEEN INDIAN AND FOREIGN CAPITAL

†639. **Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what steps Government have taken to check the growth of foreign interests in the form of alliances between Indians and foreigners?

(b) Have Government received any representations and protests from Indian business and commercial community expressing their concern over this issue in the method of India's industrialisation?

(c) If so, what have they done to allay these fears in the minds of Indian business community?

(d) What is Government's policy in this respect, if they have any?

(e) Do Government propose to enunciate a long term policy in this respect, and publicise it for the benefits of Indian business community and the public in general?

(f) Do Government propose to assure the Indian business community that no such alliances between Indian and foreign capital will be allowed to be entered into hereafter and lay down that Indian industrialisation will be achieved on the basis of development and expansion of Industries owned, controlled and managed by Indians?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: This question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. I regret I am not in a position to give the information asked for.

HEALTH OF RICKSHAW PULLERS

640. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the health of rikshaw pullers in general is very bad because of their occupation,

(b) the statistics about their number in different Provinces of India,

(c) the death rate among them and the disease from which they die, and

(d) the proposals of Government to check them?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) The Labour Investigation Committee, which investigated the condition of rickshaw pullers in certain cities in India found that as the majority of them are in the prime of manhood their general health is not unsatisfactory, but they suffer frequently from respiratory diseases brought about by exposure to the weather

(b) Statistics regarding the number of rickshaw pullers employed in the different Provinces of India are not available

(c) No information is available about the death rate amongst rickshaw pullers

(d) The Municipal authorities and the Provincial Governments are generally responsible for the Health and Welfare of rickshaw pullers

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that in Simla Hills these rickshaw pullers die at an early age?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: There was an investigation made into the health of the rickshaw pullers about three years ago and the result does not show that the Honourable Member's statement is correct

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Government of India ask the Delhi municipality at least to prohibit rickshaw pulling in the City?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: As far as the investigations which have been made show there is no reason on health grounds alone for prohibiting the pulling of rickshaws

Shri Sri Prakasa: What is the average age of a rickshaw puller about which an investigation has been carried on by the Honourable Member's department?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: I understand that in Simla licences are issued only to men between the ages of 20 to 40

Shri Sri Prakasa: What is the duration of the licence?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: One year.

Mr. Leslie Gwillt: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will encourage provincial governments to enquire into the average life of a rickshaw puller and in view of the fact that he becomes a rickshaw puller because of his miserable economic circumstances, will he also encourage provincial governments not to issue any more licences to rickshaw pullers, and to try and find out alternative employments for them instead of pulling rickshaws?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: The Government will consider making this suggestion to the Provincial Governments

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government see that at least a cycle is attached to rickshaws so as to relieve the pullers of some strain?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is still worse

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: That is really a matter within the discretion of provincial governments

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that the rickshaws which have got bicycles attached to them require more exertion than the ordinary rickshaws which are ordinarily pulled by them?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: I have no information on that point

APPLICATION OF SARGENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION TO MUSLIMS

641. *Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state whether it is a fact that the Sargent Scheme has been accepted by the Government of India with the proviso that special efforts should be made to help the Muslims and other educationally backward communities in the Education field?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above is in the affirmative, what provision in this direction has been made in the five year plans?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Educational Development in India, popularly called the Sargent Report, was accepted generally by the Government of India in 1945 with the proviso that until the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education that educational opportunities should be available for all has been fully implemented steps should be taken to secure the provision of adequate facilities for Muslims and other minority communities and to accelerate the progress of the scheduled castes and backward communities.

(b) The decision of the Government of India was communicated to the Provincial Governments. A statement indicating the action that has been taken or is proposed to be taken by the Provincial Governments in regard to educational development in their areas during the next quinquennium has already been laid on the table of the House in connection with Starred question No 185. The responsibility of the execution of these plans rests primarily with the provincial authorities who will no doubt pay due attention to the consideration mentioned above. The schemes received have been framed in broad outlines and the details of the provisions made in the connection referred to in the question are not available in all cases. A statement of such provisions as are mentioned specifically in the five-year plans is laid on the table of the House.

A Statement indicating special provisions made for the Education of Muslims, Scheduled Castes and other educationally backward communities in the Five Year Plans. (Starred question No 641)

A Provincial Plans

1 *Assam*—(i) It is proposed to open at least 50 Primary Schools annually in all the Excluded Areas. The Control of Primary education in the Lushai Hills and the North Cachar Hills will also be gradually taken over by Government from the Missionary Bodies.

(ii) Three High Schools will be opened—one in the Lushai Hills, one in the North Cachar Hills and one in the Sadiya Frontier Tract. It is also intended to open five Middle Schools annually in the Excluded Areas and provide the necessary Inspectorate.

2 *Bengal*—It is proposed to improve 50 High Schools, both boys' and girls'. In selecting these schools, the interests of the educationally backward communities will be kept in mind.

3 *Orissa*—It is proposed to give more scholarships and provide books and slates to the students of scheduled castes, backward classes and hill tribes so that they may come forward in larger numbers to receive the benefits of education. There is also provision for payment of grants to hostels in which students from these communities will live.

4 *United Provinces*—(i) It is proposed to give grants to libraries for depressed classes.

(ii) It is provided that grants-in-aid will be given to non-official bodies including managers of non Government institutions which are already running hostels for students of all castes and communities and stand in need of monetary assistance for extending hostel facilities to scheduled caste students.

(iii) With a view to expending Depressed Class Girls' Education, it is proposed to give higher rates of stipends to the girls of these classes.

(iv) It is proposed to increase the salaries of Depressed Class Supervisors from Rs. 30 p m to Rs 40-2-60.

5 *Punjab*—(i) In the majority of tahsils selected for expansion of education, Muslim population predominates.

(ii) A liberal provision of Scholarships for all stages of education has been made, and in order to encourage education among the backward classes, an adequate number of scholarships will be reserved for them at each stage.

(iii) It is proposed to give a grant-in-aid to the Muslim Girls' School, Ambala Cantt for the expansion of the existing school building.

(iv) A grant is to be paid to the Anjuman-i-Khadim-ul-Islam, Jullunder City, for the construction of a building for the Islamia College, Jullunder

6 *Central Provinces*—The Central Provinces have got two plans for educational development—one general plan for the entire Province and the other Pilot Plan for selection areas. One of the selected areas for the introduction of the Pilot Plan is Baihar tahsil inhabited mainly by the aboriginals. Among the schemes incorporated in the Pilot Plan are introduction of Compulsory Basic Education and provision of Normal and High Schools

7 *Madras*—Madras has made the most liberal provision for educational expansion at the school stage for all communities, they propose to provide special facilities for College education for Muslim girls

B Central Plans

The Government of India have also approved of certain Development Schemes of the Aligarh Muslim University concerning Engineering College, Science Departments, Women's College, Training College, Salary of the Staff, Power Plants, etc. The Central Government's contribution for these schemes may reach Rs 70 lakhs

A scheme for Overseas Scholarships has been in operation since 1945-46. An amount of Rs 3.60 crores is likely to be spent on the training, etc., of the scholars up to 1951-52, this amount is inclusive of the Central Government's contribution at the rate of 50 per cent towards the cost of training abroad of scholars, sponsored by the Provincial Governments. In making the selection the Central Government take every care to ensure that suitable candidates belonging to the minority communities are provided for. The total number of Central Scholarships awarded in 1945-46 was 354 out of which Muslims got 90. Out of 213 scholarships awarded in 1946-47 Muslims got 58.

The Government of India have also sanctioned a separate scheme for the Scheduled Caste Scholarships for five years with effect from 1944-45. An annual grant of Rs. 3,00,000 is being provided for this purpose.

GRANT TO MUSLIM INSTITUTIONS FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

642. ***Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan:** Will the Honourable Member for Education please give the total number of institutions receiving grants from his Department, the total sum involved every year and the proportion of Muslim Institutions thereof?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: A list of the institutions other than educational institutions of the Centrally Administered Areas which receive grants from the Education Department, is laid on the table of the House. The amount of grant paid to the institutions varies from year to year and the sums provided for in the current financial year are shown against each item in the statement. Most of the institutions receiving grants-in-aid are all-India all-Community institutions devoted to Research and Cultural activities of which the advantages and facilities are available to all communities. Of the institution set out in the statement the Aligarh Muslim University, if it can be counted as a Muslim Institution, receives a grant of Rs 3.8 lakhs out of a total of Rs 15.94 lakhs recurring grants.

In this connection the attention of the Honourable Member is also invited to the statement laid on the table of the House in reply to Starred Question No 185 on the 4th November 1946 which sets out what is contemplated in respect of additional grants to certain institutions including Aligarh Muslim University.

Name of Institution	Budget Provision—1946-47
	Rs
1. Indian Science Congress Association, Calcutta	5,000
2. Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta	20,000

Name of Institution	Budget Provision—1946-47
	Rs.
3. Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal	25,000
4. Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta . . .	2,15,000
. . .	(This includes a non-recurring grant of Rs. 1,40,000 and a Recurring grant of Rs. 75,000 which is earmarked for the re-organisation of the Institute. Till the re-organisation takes place a grant of Rs. 83,000 would be paid to the Institute.)
5. Dharmakosh Mandal	2,000
6. National Institute of Science of India . . .	3,37,000
	(Includes a Non-recurring grant of Rs. 2,30,000 and a Recurring grant of Rs. 1,17,000. Actually a grant of Rs. 1,02,200 Recurring has so far been paid and Rs. 70,000 Non-recurring grant is also expected to be paid this year.)
7. Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Calcutta.	10,000
8. Vishweshwaranand Vedic Research Institute, Lahore.	5,500
9. Indian History Congress	10,000
10. Botanical Society, Calcutta	1,000
11. Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona	4,000
12. Bose Research Institute, Calcutta . . .	66,600
	(This is the maximum grant admissible. Actual amount to be paid depends on the actual expenditure of the Institute.)
13. New Delhi Social Service League for Literacy • Campaign among inferior staff of the Central Secretariat.	1,000
14. Grant to Visva Bharati	32,000
	(Excludes grant which it is proposed to make to the Institution for undertaking schemes for the training of teachers in connection with the Development Plan.)
15. Girls' Guide Association	2,500
16. Boy Scouts Association	15,000
17. Lady Irwin College, New Delhi	71,600
	(This includes a Non-recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 which is not likely to be paid this year.)
18. Scheduled Caste College, Bombay	2,54,000
	(This is a Non-recurring grant and will be paid this year only)
19. Banares Hindu University	3,30,000

Name of Institution	Budget Provision—1946-47
	Rs
20 Aligarh Muslim University .	3,30,000
21 Indian Olympic Association .	1,000
22. Inter-University Board . . .	1,000
	(In 1946-47 an extra grant of Rs. 9,000 to be met from saving has been agreed to)
23 Inter-Provincial Board for Anglo-Indian and European Education	3,500
24 Indian Institute of Science .	20,26,500
	(This includes Non-recurring grant of Rs. 15,20,000)
25 Association of Principal of Technical Institutions (India).	10,400
	Total Rs. 37,78,400*

(*Includes Non-recurring grants totalling Rs. 21 84 lakhs)

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What kind of control do the Central Government exercises over the institutions to which grants are made, to see that the grants are properly utilised and the institutions are properly working?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Consistent with the autonomy of important educational institutions every care is exercised to carry out the duties of the Government of India to watch the fulfilment of conditions which are set out in the policies as well as the grants themselves

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that in the case of institutions to which large grants are made—like the Bhatnagar Institute to which a large sum of money is given—the Central Government introduces into the Board two Members of the Legislative Assembly? Likewise will the Honourable Member control the Bhatnagar Institute also by providing that in the governing body representation is given to two Members of this House because a large grant is made there?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The control exercised varies from institution to institution. I do not understand the reference to the Bhatnagar Institute, but if it relates to the Council of Industrial and Scientific Research, the Honourable Member for Industries is the President of that Council

Sri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly control himself from controlling the institutions to which Government give grants?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: There is more cacophony than clarity in that question

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: As this House has the right to nominate members to the Bangalore Institute of Science, why should not the same privilege be extended in the case of the Council of Industrial and Scientific Research?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: This Council is a mixed body wherein industrialists have a part, scientists have a part and Government have a part; and the President of the Council of the general body as well as of the governing body is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. And I can assure Honourable Members that every paper goes to the Government Department and there is perfect control over this Council

PROPORTION OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

643. *Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Education please state the total number of class I Officers in his Department and its attached offices and the proportion of Muslims therein?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The total number of Class I Officers in this Department including attached offices is 50. Of these three are non-Indians. Twelve out of the remaining 47 are Muslims. Besides these, three Class I posts in the Archaeological Survey are reserved for War Service Candidates who will be selected on the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission.

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Were these Muslim officers selected departmentally, or by the Federal Public Service Commission?

*The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: They are already there. I do not know how they were originally selected.

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Are there any officers who were not selected by the Public Service Commission?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If the question is about persons who are already holding posts there, I must ask for notice to answer that question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Do I understand that the proportion of Muslims in the Honourable Member's Department is not in accordance with the Government rule under which Muslims must have 25 per cent? If so, what steps does he propose to take to see that the quota of Muslims is properly maintained in his department?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I believe the quota is maintained. As I have already said, there are certain posts to which the communal proportion rule does not apply. It should also be remembered that promotions are not made on the communal proportion basis. I said 12 out of 47 are Muslims today. Out of these 47 some five are not subject to the communal rule, others about three are due to promotions. And if we subtract this—I hope my calculation is right—it would be about 39, out of which 12 are Muslims, and I do not think that this is below the communal quota. The Honourable Member will tell me if my arithmetic is wrong.

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that some of these 12 Muslim officers came in by competitive examination and not under the communal proportion rule?

Mr. President: That has been already answered, the Honourable Member wants notice.

PROVISION OF WAITING ROOM, IN INCOME-TAX OFFICE, DELHI

644. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware of the great inconvenience caused to income-tax payers and their representatives who appear before the Income Tax Officers in Delhi, for want of waiting rooms, or any seating accommodation in the Income Tax Offices? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to remove the same?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Steps have been taken to provide waiting rooms in those Income-tax Offices in Delhi where they did not exist.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly extend this convenience to places other than Delhi also?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: If the Honourable Member will give me more particulars I shall be glad to examine the question.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What particulars? Where there are no rooms there can be no particulars.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I want particulars that the lack of rooms is actually causing inconvenience to the public.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government aware that in district centres income-tax assesses have to stand in the verandah or in the open because of want of rooms?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: In winter months it is better outside than inside a cold room.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But what about the summer months? Will the Honourable Member examine the topography of the income-tax office in Benares?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I am not sure about Benares, but in summer months also the shade of a tree is much cooler than a room without fans or other cooling arrangements.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly take steps to hold meetings of the Legislative Assembly under trees?

Mr. President: Order, order. The question hour is over.

Mr. President: Mr Bhalja wants to correct one of his replies, which he may do now.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: In reply to a supplementary question on Question No. 630, I said that the number of prisoners the cost of whose maintenance was debited to the Government of India was 450. The correct figure is 650.

Mr. President: Before Short Notice Questions are put, I have to invite Honourable Members' attention to one point. It has been suggested to me, and rightly, that questions which really involve long tabulated statements and figures should not come in as starred questions. The result is that members are not able to study the statements and put supplementary questions and the questions take up more time of the House, barring out other questions. In this connection, I have to invite Honourable Members' attention to a circular which is always issued at the beginning of each Session. This very suggestion has been repeated there. I am referring to 5(a).

"A star should be placed in front of a question to which an Honourable Member wishes to have an oral answer on the floor of the House. Honourable Members are advised to put a star against only those questions in respect of which supplementary questions are likely to be asked, and not against those which merely ask for statistics or for the laying of statements on the table of the House."

So I just invite the attention of the Honourable Members to that. I do not want to interfere with their own discretion in this matter.

I might also invite their attention to another fact that we are not putting through more than about 20 questions a day. We have on the question list on an average about 40 to 45 questions every day. I may be wrong with regard to the exact number, but the point is that a large number of them cannot be orally answered and so they practically go in as unstarred questions. It would be better if Members while starring questions just take care to see that they do not star questions which require long statements or long particulars.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadian). Will the Honourable the President consider one more point for saving the time of the House and putting through more questions? In the last Session it was suggested that as is the practice in many provincial assemblies, replies to the questions may also be printed and circulated to members at least two hours earlier so that we may be able to put more supplementary questions.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural). May I respectfully suggest that you may unstar most of our starred questions. You take great care in improving the language and deleting certain parts of our questions, and when you undergo all that trouble, take so much pain over every question. I submit that it would be quite easy for you to demolish the star also.

Seth Govind Das: What about my request?

Mr. President: That question will be considered.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) May I bring to your notice that sometime the Government Members when they do not want supplementary questions to be asked put the reply in the form of a statement and lay it on the table I suggest that Government Members should not also do that. When the reply is short they should read the information and not lay a statement on the table of the House .

Mr. President: If such a question arises, we will consider that matter About printing the answers, we shall see That matter was considered during the last session, and it now rests with the Government But any way, I am merely impressing on the Members the desirability of not stalling all but only such of their questions as are desired to be answered orally Unless the whole House agrees that I should delete the star, I am afraid I cannot do so

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadian Rural): I say most respectfully that we are not prepared to give you that power

Mr. President: It is not a question of giving me that power Even if that power is given to me, my difficulty would be that I cannot know what is in the mind of the Honourable Member with reference to supplementary questions. It will therefore be a difficult power to exercise I leave it to the Honourable Members to consider this matter

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FOR DELHI

645. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the general demand made by the people of the Delhi Province that the undemocratic character of the various local bodies of the Province, i.e., New Delhi Committee, Notified Area Committee, Fort Area Committee, should be ended and the Delhi Municipal Committee should be formed into a Municipal Corporation by merging the various local bodies in the same?

(b) Have Government decided to appoint a Committee to go into this question and consider the advisability or otherwise of forming a corporation? If so, when will this Committee be formed, and what will be its terms of reference?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) Government are aware that there is a demand for the establishment of a Municipal Corporation in Delhi

(b) The matter is under consideration and an announcement on the subject will be made very shortly

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE re PREVENTION OF EXPORT OF ARTICLES OF ARTISTIC IMPORTANCE

646. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Advisory Committee have recommended to Government about the advisability of taking steps with a view to preventing unauthorised export of articles of artistic importance and to recover such articles already sent to foreign countries? If so, what steps do Government intend taking in respect of the recommendation?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The Central Advisory Board of Archaeology at its third meeting held on the 10th September, 1946, referred the question of prevention of the export of valuable antiquarian remains and objects of art outside the country and of reclaiming, where possible, from European countries as many objects of antique value as were carried by them in the past, to its Standing Committee for examination and report to the next meeting of the Board to be held early in 1947 Government are awaiting the recommendations of the Board

ABOLITION OF DEATH PENALTY

647. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a *Reuter's* message of the 28th October from London stating that in a letter to the *Times*, Dr Katju, the Minister for Justice in the United Provinces Government, has favoured the abolition of death penalty and says that it "serves no useful purpose" besides being barbarous; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of bringing forward a Bill to abolish this form of punishment?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes

(b) No Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 30th October 1946 to starred question No 92 by Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal

RETRENCHMENT IN GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

648. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the approximate dates as to when retrenchment in different Departments in the Central Government especially in the General Headquarters will take place?

(b) What arrangements have been made by the Government of India to find alternative employment for those who are going to be retrenched?

(c) Is it the policy of the present National Government to provide the retrenched staff with alternative employment before their present posts are retrenched?

(d) Is it a fact that the various Departments of the Government of India are advertising in the Press for further recruitment from civil life in order to fill vacancies in their respective Departments?

(e) Do Government propose to create an Inter Departmental co-ordination Committee so that the employees who are retrenched from one Department are given employment in another Department which advertises for the jobs?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No definite date for retrenchment as such has been fixed but persons holding temporary appointments will be discharged in the ordinary course as and when they become surplus to Government requirements

(b), (c), (d) and (e) Government have not adopted a policy of postponing the retrenchment of superfluous posts until alternative employment has been found for those filling them. Departments advertise the posts only when suitable retrenched personnel are not available. Government have also promulgated their plans for resettlement of retrenched employees in the instructions a copy of which I place on the table. The Central Employment Exchange set up by the Labour Department constitutes such a co-ordinating authority as is referred to in part (c)

VI (1)

OFFICE MEMORANDUM, HOME DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA No 70/69/45-Ests (R), DATED, THE 24TH NOVEMBER 1945, TO ALL DEPTS OF THE GOVT OF INDIA

SUBJECT — *Resettlement of retrenched temporary employees of the Central Government*

As a result of the end of the war it is expected that a large number of temporary employees of Government will have to be discharged. It has been decided that the Employment Exchanges set up by the Labour Department, will render ever assistance to these persons in finding other employment. The Labour Department will be shortly issuing instructions to give effect to this decision in respect of persons with technical qualifications. In respect of other temporary employees, Departments are required to observe the following procedure in discharging them and in making future recruitment —

I *Registration in Employment Exchanges*

(a) Well in advance of the date of discharge of a temporary Government servant—clerical, administrative or executive—the employing Department or office will fill up in duplicate the standard occupational record form (form X-1) and the standard confidential report in respect of every such person who desires assistance in finding employment, and will forward the forms to the Central Employment Exchange, Labour Department, Simla

(b) The Central Employment Exchange will register the forms, retain one set for its records and forward the other set to the Employment Exchange nearest the person's place of residence. The discharged employees should be asked to notify to the Exchange his arrival at his place of residence as soon as he gets there

II Recruitment

(i) An appointing authority before filling any permanent or temporary vacancy which can be filled otherwise than in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission or on the results of competitive examination, will report to the Central Employment Exchange or the appropriate Regional Exchange the number of vacancies available and the qualifications required of intending candidates and call upon the Exchange to submit a list of candidates possessing the prescribed qualifications. Where the number of available candidates is likely to be large, the appointing authority may state the maximum number of candidates to be nominated by the Exchange

(ii) The Employment Exchange will then submit to the appointing authority details of all candidates who possess the prescribed qualifications and have not been described by the previous employer as unsuitable for Government service or, where the appointing authority has stated the maximum number of candidates to be nominated, details of the most suitable candidates from its registers up to the maximum number prescribed

(iii) The appointing authority, after selecting and appointing the most suitable persons from the panel of names submitted, will then report the fact of appointment to the Employment Exchanges which had nominated them in order to enable the Exchanges to maintain their registers up to date

(iv) No Department or office shall after the issue of these orders, fill any vacancy of more than three months' duration by direct recruitment of a person not already in Government employment otherwise than through the Employment Exchanges unless the Exchanges are unable to supply suitable Candidates—

Provided that appointments which have to be made in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission or on the results of a competitive examination will continue to be so made, and in respect of vacancies which have to be filled on the results of a competitive examination, the authority concerned will inform the appropriate Employment Exchange of the number of vacancies which have to be filled and the qualifications required, and the Employment Exchanges will bring the vacancies to the notice of qualified persons registered with them

(v) The procedure outlined above does not imply any relaxation of the qualification prescribed in respect of any appointment. Persons recruited through Employment Exchanges are required, subject to any general orders issued in this behalf, the qualifications prescribed in regard to age, education, or other matters and appointments must be made in strict conformity with the rules regulating reservation of vacancies in favour of minority communities

2. It has also been decided that Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment will, as far as possible, ascertain the special aptitudes of persons registered in the Employment Exchanges and afford them training facilities to fit them for employment for which they show aptitude. Further instructions on this point will be issued by the Labour Department

3. A specimen copy of form X-1 and of the confidential report and a copy of the instructions for completing the forms are enclosed herewith. Any difficulty in filling up the forms should be referred to the Labour Department, which will also render any necessary assistance to any Department in completing the forms when discharge on a large scale is contemplated. Supplies of Form X-1 and of the standard confidential report form can be had on application to the Central Employment Exchange, Labour Department, Government of India, Simla

X-1

1 Reg No		3 Age or Year of Birth		4 * M W S		5 Usual Trade or Occupation		6 Trade Ind No	
2 (a) Name in full (Block capital)		(b) Father's name		Alternative Occupation (s)					
7 Religion		11 Educational Qualification							
8 Cast		11 School () attended		From		To		Examinations passed (with date)	
9 Home address (a) Village (b) Post Office (c) Telegraph Office (d) Railway Station (e) Telephone Sub Division (f) District (g) Province (h) Temporary address		G. nora							
		Technical							
10 Temporary address		12 Apprenticeship		Name of Factory		Shop in which trained		From To	
13 Physical Description		Language		Read		Speak		Write	
Height Weight		Lang age							
14		15		16 Minimum salary expected		17 If already engaged at an Exchange state which and date of registration		18 Special Qualification as to	
16		17		18		19		20	

*D Lete inapplicable items

- 1 Name (in block letters)
- 2 Date from which the person will be available for re-employment
- 3 Report by employing Department on the work and experience of the person—
Whether—

* (a) Very suitable for permanent Government post and deserving immediate consideration.

(b) fit for Government service

(c) unsuitable for Government service

4 General (here make any other comments considered necessary)

*Strike out whichever is not applicable

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE CARD INDEX ENVELOPE (FORM X'1)

The card in the form of an envelope is designed to provide a complete personal and service record of an individual which will enable the Employment Exchanges to render the fullest possible assistance in the resettlement of the discharged employees. The envelope pattern is used so that any correspondence or other documents relating to the individual may be placed inside the envelope portion. Each card will thus form a complete record of the individual.

2 Cards will be completed only for these individuals who wish for assistance in finding employment.

3 Much of the value of a card will depend upon the care taken in its preparation. Slipshod completion of the forms may render it difficult for the Employment Exchange to place the workman in suitable employment. The following instructions should be carefully observed —

Items 1, 6 and 10—These are for completion at Employment Exchanges.

Item 2—The name must be entered in full and in block capitals.

Item 4—Delete inapplicable entries. The letters 'M', 'W' and 'S' are abbreviations for 'Married', 'Widower' and 'Single' respectively.

Item 5—Under the heading 'Usual trade or Occupation' the occupation in which the employee is at present employed by the Government should be entered. Under the heading 'Alternative Occupation(s)' should be entered details of any other occupations for which the employee is considered suitable.

Item 9—The fullest possible address must be recorded so that there may be no difficulty in informing the registered person of any suitable vacancies which may occur.

Item 13—Height and weight need not be filled in all cases, but only where the particulars are readily available or can be ascertained.

Item 15—It will not be sufficient merely to ask the employee whether he is willing to work anywhere and to record his answer. Efforts should be made to judge, by intelligent questions regarding his domestic ties and other similar matters whether he would in fact be likely to accept employment at a distant place from his home or not and the likely places, e.g., neighbouring provinces, etc., to which he is willing to move. The opinion so formed as well as the employee's reply should be recorded.

Item 16—Record the minimum salary the individual is prepared to accept bearing in mind the salary he is employed at in the Department.

Item 18—This is the most important section of the form and particular attention should be paid to the adequate completion of this item. It is not sufficient to know what a man's usual occupation is. The extent of his knowledge is necessary to complete the picture. The details entered in the 'qualification space' should complete the picture. Such items as shorthand speed, typing speed, knowledge of special filing systems, experience in accountancy etc., should be recorded. The examples are by no means exhaustive as the type of information desirable will vary for each occupation, but care should be taken to record as much useful information as possible under this heading.

Item 19—The individual's record of service will be given under this item. Under "Name of Factory" the names of the offices (both private and Government) or Employing Departments in which the individual has served will be given in chronological order, together with the type of work performed and the period of service.

Item 20—The date on which the discharged worker will be available for other employment will be entered under this item.

NOTE—All entries on the form should be made in ink.

Any additional information which cannot be entered in the columns provided on the card index envelope may be entered on form X-1A which should be filled inside the envelope.

COMMISSION TO ENQUIRE INTO INDIAN PRESS.

649. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the finance, control, management and ownership of the Indian Press as has been done by the House of Commons for the British Press? If so, what would be its terms of reference, and when is the Commission likely to be appointed?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Government have no such proposal under consideration at present.

INDIANISATION OF DEFENCE FORCES

650. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) the total number of non-Indian Officers in the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force, and

(b) what steps Government are taking for the complete Indianisation of the said personnel in the Defence Forces?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a)

Royal Indian Navy	376
Indian Army	21,891
Royal Indian Air Force	Nil

(b) As announced in a press communique issued on the 13th November 1946, Government have appointed a Committee to advise them on the ways and means of nationalising the Armed Forces of India within the shortest time possible.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF DEMOBILIZED INDIAN OFFICERS

651. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) the total number of Indian Officers and personnel demobilised after the cessation of hostilities,

(b) what opportunities are given to demobilised Indian Officers to get re-employment in the Indian Forces, and

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian Officers have served during the recent war with distinction, if so what efforts are made to reabsorb them in the Defence Forces?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The total number of Indian personnel demobilized since the cessation of hostilities up to the 1st October 1946 is 9,58,563, comprising 5,005 Officers and 9,53,558 Other Ranks.

(b) Demobilized Indian Officers are eligible to apply for permanent commissions and Short Service Commissions in the Indian Armed Forces, provided they satisfy the conditions prescribed therefor.

(c) Yes, Sir, and none of those officers who wished to stay on have been compulsorily released unless they were otherwise disqualified. The question of re-absorption does not, therefore, arise.

GRANT OF COMMISSION TO OVERAGE EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

652. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state if it is a fact that a large number of over age Emergency Commissioned Officers, on being granted regular Commissions, have been given seniority over pre-war regular officers of many years service and experience?

(b) Are Government aware that this policy is detrimental to the standard of efficiency in the Army?

(c) If more senior officers are urgently required to hasten the process of Indianisation, why are existing regular officers not given accelerated promotions instead of filling the senior ranks of the Army with over age Emergency Commissioned Officers?

(d) How is it proposed to replace the senior British Officers who may be leaving the Indian Army within the next year or so?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir, out of 770 regular Commissions so far granted, only 86 officers who were over 25 at the time of the grant of Emergency Commissions have been approved for Regular Commissions. This was found necessary in order to retain a few officers who had rendered really outstanding service during the war. The date of seniority of these officers is ante-dated to their 23rd birthday so as to place them in their correct age group with the regular officers and thus avoid their serving under younger pre war Regular Officers.

(b) No, Sir, far from being detrimental to efficiency this policy is calculated to make full use of the services of outstanding officers who on account of their age would otherwise be lost to the Army.

(c) Senior ranks are filled by selecting the most suitable officers irrespective of whether they were originally granted an Emergency or a Regular Commission. The number of over age Emergency Commissioned Officers is so small that it cannot be said they are filling the ranks of the Army.

(d) It is proposed to replace the senior British Officers leaving India by promotion of the most suitable Indian Officers.

MUSLIMS IN THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

653. *Mr. Ahmed E H Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the communal proportion of 25 per cent allotted to Muslims in the Military Accounts Department has been observed? If not, what is the percentage of Muslims (excluding menials) at present in the Department?

(b) In view of the paucity of Muslims in the Department, have all the Muslims now serving in the Military Accounts Department been absorbed permanently?

(c) Do Government propose to ensure that no Muslim from the Military Accounts Department is retrenched until the allotted quota is filled?

(d) What is the percentage of Muslims in the Military Accounts Department in the following grades

(i) Clerks 'A' Grade, (ii) Accountants, and (iii) Deputy Assistant Controllers?

(e) In view of the small representation of Muslims in the above grades, do Government propose to ensure that special concessions are given to Muslims in the matter of promotion to the above grades?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) According to the latest figures available the percentage of Muslims in the Military Accounts Department are as under

(i) Superior Service Officers	12 1%
(ii) Others	15 9%

The percentage of Muslims in the following grades is as below

(i) Clerks 'A' Grade	8 3%
(ii) Accountants	7 7%
(iii) Deputy Assistant Controllers	6 1%

The question of the steps necessary to secure adequate representation of Muslims in the Military Accounts Department is under consideration.

DIPLOMAS OF THE DELHI POLYTECHNIC

654. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to secure recognition for the All-India Diplomas awarded by the Delhi Polytechnic from the Federal Public Service Commission and Provincial Governments so far, and with what results?

(b) Why have the students of the Engineering Department of the Delhi Polytechnic refused to take their final All-India Diploma Examination, and what steps have Government taken to redress their grievances?

(c) Are the Government of India prepared to accept this Diploma as equivalent to a degree for recruitment in their own Departments like Works, Mines and Power, Railways, Posts and Air, All-India Radio, etc ?

(d) When do Government propose to hold the Recognised All-India Diploma Examination?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The present position in regard to recognition of All-India Diplomas has been outlined in statement 'A' laid on the table in connection with my reply to starred question No. 512 by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena

(b) The students of the Engineering Department of the Delhi Polytechnic refused to take their final All-India Diploma Examination in September on the plea that the Diploma was not recognised by the Indian Universities and the Federal Public Service Commission. Steps taken in this connection are outlined in reply referred to in (a)

(c) The matter is under active consideration of the Government of India Departments, concerned with the employment of Engineers

(d) The position regarding recognition has been explained in reply to part (a). A special All-India Diploma examination to be held during the last week of January 1947 has been arranged and it is expected that the students who kept away from the last examination will take advantage of the special facilities extended to them, and it is hoped Honourable Members interested will help in getting the students to attend and pass the examination so that their prospects may be put on safe ground

INCOME-TAX ON TOTAL PROFITS OF STERLING AND DOLLAR COMPANIES IN INDIA

655. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please furnish a list of Sterling and Dollar companies carrying on business in British India?

(b) What are the names of the companies whose British Indian profits exceeded foreign profits during the years 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46?

(c) Have these companies been treated as resident under Section 4A(c) of the Indian Income Tax Act and assessed to income tax on the total profits, i.e., including profits earned outside British India? If not, why not?

(d) Have all these companies been asked to submit a return under Section 19A? If not, why not?

(e) Have these returns been received? What is the number of foreign shareholders who were in receipt of dividends amounting to Rs. 25,000 and above?

(f) Has any attempt been made to assess these persons to super-tax at the appropriate rates? If so, what is the amount of super-tax realised from them? If no attempts have been made, why?

(g) Were any prosecutions lodged against any of these companies for failure to submit a return under Section 19A? If so, with what result?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) to (g) The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course

POST OF JOINT DIRECTOR GENERAL IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

656. *Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state if it is a fact that the Office of the Director General of Archaeological Survey, has now been divided into sub-sections, each under a separate Class I officer, such as Excavation, Conservation and Publications, etc ?

(b) Why has a new post of Joint Director General been created, when the work of the Director General has been so divided?

(c) Will he please lay on the table a statement showing the extra work for which an officer of the rank of Joint Director General is appointed?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) No, there is no new division at the functions of the Director General of Archaeology in India into sub-sections although a certain number of appointments have been made or revived during the last two years to provide more adequately for control of various activities of the Archaeological Survey, i.e., exploration, excavation, publication, conservation etc.

(b) and (c) The post of Joint Director General of Archaeology was created not on account of the division of work as alleged but for the reasons given in reply to question No 1653 asked in this house on the 8th April, 1946.

Dr Mortimer Wheeler was Keeper and Secretary of the London Museum when he agreed to serve the Government of India. He was Lecturer in British Archaeology, University College, London, Honorary Director, Institute of Archaeology in London University, a Governor of the National Museum, of Wales, Member of the Ancient Monuments Boards for England and Wales, and Fellow of the University College of London, Vice President of the Society of Antiquaries from 1935 to 1939. It would be false economy to bring out an eminent person on a four year contract for the place of Director General of Archaeology and then to compel him to devote the greater part of his time to mere administrative duties.

It had long been felt that the admitted failure of the Department in the past to fulfil adequately the vitally important duties of conservation and exploration entrusted to it was due in no small measure to the inability of any Director General of Archaeology to maintain sufficiently close contact both with work in the field throughout India and with Government at New Delhi or to carry out the urgent task of training new entrants and remodelling the circles.

An Officer who possessed extensive administrative experience at headquarters and had a full knowledge of the scope and nature of the current reorganisation had to be retained at headquarters to assist the Director General of Archaeology in his task and to relieve him of a number of existing administrative duties. The present Joint Director General of Archaeology has the special qualifications and experience essential for this task having served at headquarters under two successive Directors General of Archaeology.

EXPENSES ON TOUR OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY TO PERSIA AND AFGHANISTAN

657. *Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state if it is a fact that the Director General of Archaeology in India went to Persia in 1945?

(b) What were the reasons for his Persian tour? Was any report prepared and published by him? If so, do Government propose to lay a copy of that report on the table of the House?

(c) Is it also a fact that recently the Director General went to Afghanistan? What was the purpose of his going to that country, who bore the expenses, and who accompanied him on this tour?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes, the Director General of Archaeology in India went to Iran in 1945 along with Dr Mohammad Nasim, Superintendent of the Frontier Circle of Archaeological Survey.

(b) The Iranian tour was undertaken by the Director General of Archaeology in India at the invitation of the Iranian Government as a return visit for the Iranian Cultural Mission which visited India in 1944. A report on cultural contact between the two countries was submitted to the Government of India by the Director General of Archaeology, but it was withheld on account of references in it to Russian obstruction to which it was considered not wise to give publicity in an undue degree.

The mission to Iran had the warm approval of the members of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology in which there are seven members of the Legislature. I may add that the members of the Board had copies of the report referred to in (b).

(c) The Director General of Archaeology in India made an Archaeological and cultural tour of Afghanistan at the invitation of the Afghan Government. He was accompanied by Mr Justice N G A Edgley, President of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and Mr M A Shakur, Curator of the Peshawar Museum, who represented the Government of the North West Frontier Province. As the members of the mission were the guests of the Afghan Government, that Government met the major part of their expenses. Incidental expenses of the Director General of Archaeology in India and of Mr M A Shakur were of course met by the Governments of India and the North West Frontier Province respectively.

DESTRUCTION OF AEROPLANES BY GOVERNMENT AFTER THE CLOSE OF WAR

658. *Pandit Balakrishna Sharma: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

- (a) if it is a fact that a large number of aeroplanes in good order were deliberately destroyed by Government as not needed after the close of the war
- (b) the reasons for such destruction, and
- (c) the use to which the broken materials were put?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir. No aircraft belonging to the Government of India were destroyed. A number of aircraft belonging to the United States Government and H M G, however, were destroyed under orders issued by those Governments.

(b) The aircraft destroyed were all "combat" aircraft and useless for civil purposes, since they were designed entirely for operations.

(c) The produce from such machines, as for all unserviceable aircraft, is disposed of by the Salvage Organization. This is mostly bought as raw material by industry but some portions are brought back into the armed forces for further use.

SUPPLY OF QUININE AND CINCHONA TO PROVINCES

659. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to state the quantity of quinine and cinchona powders and tablets supplied to different Provinces in India during the years 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1946 and the incidence of death from Malaria in these Provinces during the period?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: Statements showing the allotments of quinine sulphate and cinchona febrifuge made by the Central Government to the various provinces during 1942-43 to 1945-46 and the number of deaths reported to be due to malaria during the years 1942 to 1946 are laid on the table of the House. Separate figures in respect of powder and tablets are not readily available.

Statement showing allotment of quinine and cinchona febrifuge to Provincial Governments for 1942-43

	Quinine lbs	Cinchona febrifuge lbs
Madras	17,739	6,491
Bengal	50,951	17,283
Bombay	6,155	...
Punjab	9,255	...
United Provinces	8,300	980
Bihar	6,861	1,946

	Quinine lbs.	Cinchona febrifuge lbs.
Orissa	852	410
Central Provinces and Berar	4,284	1,455
Assam	4,782	2,435
Sind	3,756	"
North West Frontier Province	1,672	448
Ajmer-Merwara	123	30
Baluchistan	283	187
Delhi	493	
Coorg	619	398
Total	116,185	32,043

Statement showing allotments of quinine and cinchona febrifuge to Provincial Governments for 1943-44

	Quinine lbs.	Cinchona febrifuge lbs.
Madras	36,285	7,987
Bengal	89,150	24,300
Bombay	10,900	
United Provinces	10,300	2,450
Punjab	10,800	
Bihar	10,450	
Orissa	1,600	309
Central Provinces & Berar	6,050	1,450
Assam	6,950	2,570
Sind	4,300	
North West Frontier Province	2,350	450
Ajmer-Merwara	375	40
British Baluchistan	475	315
Delhi	1,100	
Coorg	850	480
Total	191,915	41,343

Statement showing allotments of quinine and cinchona febrifuge to Provincial Governments for 1944-45

	Quinine lbs	Cinchona febrifuge lb
Madras	17,000	19,000
Bengal	65,000	30,000
Bombay	10,000	
United Provinces	10,000	2,500
Punjab	10,000	
Bihar	10,500	
Orissa	2,000	600
Central Provinces & Berar	5,000	1,250
Assam	5,500	2,500
Sind	3,000	
N W F P	2,000	400
Ajmer-Merwara	200	50
British Baluchistan	300	200
Delhi	1,000	
Coorg	400	200
Total	141,900	58,700

Statement showing allotments of quinine and cinchona febrifuge to Provincial Governments for 1945-46

Provinces	Quinine Sulphate (lbs)	Cinchona febrifuge (lbs)
Madras	19,000	20,000
Bengal	80,000	40,000
Bombay	7,200	
United Provinces	7,000	3,000
Punjab	9,000	
Bihar	11,000	
Orissa	1,000	600
C. P. & Berar	4,000	1,250
Assam	6,000	2,500
Sind	4,000	
N. W. F. P	2,000	400
Ajmer-Merwara	400	100
Br Baluchistan	300	200
Delhi	800	
Coorg	400	200
Total	155,450	68,250

Statement showing reported Malaria Deaths in British Indian Provinces.

Province	Total	C P	Total
Madras			
1942	1827*	1942	285273
1943	1787*	1943	254109
1944	2376*	1944	264607
1945	†	1945	309246
1946	†	1946	†
Bombay		Assam	
1942	28206	1942	256**
1943	32819	1943	290**
1944	41925	1944	487**
1945	41631	1945	†
1946 (Jan to Aug)	18683	1946	†
Bengal		N W F P	
1942	426573	1942	67*
1943	688404	1943	70*
1944	763220	1944	66*
1945	516099	1945	20†
1946 (Feb to Aug)	176932	1946	†
U P		Orissa	
1942	747462	1942	378*
1943	800694	1943	769*
1944	747949	1944	564*
1945	723414	1945	507*
1946 (Jan to Aug)	396389	1946	†
Punjab		Sind	
1942	17938	1942	2911
1943	6861	1943	2496
1944	8796	1944	2776
1945	5640	1945	2804
1946	†	1946 Jan. to June	828
Bihar		Ajmer-Merwara	
1942	†	1942	436*
1943	672*	1943	187*
1944	1658*	1944	87*
1945	†	1945	20*
1946	†	1946	†

* For urban areas only.

† Not available

** Only certain towns.

‡ In hospitals only (including political Agencies).

1946 figures are compiled from monthly returns and are liable to revision.

Coorg	Total	Delhi	Total
1942	†	1942	1149
1943	†	1943	952
1944	†	1944	1164
1945	†	1945	788
1946	†	1946	

* Not available

TERMS AND CONDITION OF AGREEMENT FOR ENGAGEMENT OF R I A F PERSONNEL

660. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state if it is a fact that the members of the R I A F personnel have been called upon to sign an agreement to serve in regular engagement by the 30th November, 1946, although they have not been supplied with terms and conditions of their post-war service?

(b) Are Government aware that for this reason most of the R I A F personnel have refused to sign the agreement and that, consequently, their services will be terminated by the 31st March next?

(c) Are Government aware that these people are prepared to sign the agreement if an assurance is given to the effect that sympathetic considerations will be given to the questions of pay and prospects and that no discrimination will be made between I O R and B O R in the R I A F service?

(d) If so, do Government propose to retain the services of these experienced men instead of taking new recruits to replace them as they are doing at present?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir

The Honourable Member's question may have arisen from the scheme which has recently been introduced whereby airmen may, if they so desire, defer their release for periods of six, twelve or fifteen months. Applications to extend their service under this scheme have to be submitted by the 30th November 1946 and the date from which the periods of deferment begin is the 1st January 1947. Under this scheme the present pay scales will not be altered until the new pay code comes into force. From that date the new scales will be applied, with the proviso that if existing pay, including war service increment, is greater than that admissible under the new pay code, the existing pay will continue during the period of deferment until the recipient becomes eligible for a more favourable rate (for example by promotion) or until the 1st April 1948 whichever is earlier. It is not the intention of Government to compel any airman to sign on for a regular engagement. They will however be asked to volunteer when the new conditions of service and pay have been announced.

(b) In view of the answer to (a), this does not arise.

(c) All ranks of the R I A F are aware of the fact that a committee appointed by the Government of India is considering the question of pay for all ranks of the Armed Forces. The longest period of deferment of service is for 15 months from the 1st January 1947. As explained in the answer to (a), Indian airmen who wish to defer their release are aware that whatever the post-war pay may be, they will not, during this period of deferment, receive less than they do at present. There are no British airmen in the R I A F and therefore the question of discrimination does not arise.

(d) The majority of Indian airmen are serving on temporary engagements. It is not the intention of Government to retain in the Service, any longer than is absolutely necessary, any airman who has not signed a certificate signifying his desire to defer his release. It is necessary to enlist new recruits to replace men who wish to be released and others whose regular engagements may be expiring.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAY COMMISSION *re* PERSONNEL OF R I A F.

661. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state when the Pay Commission is expected to make recommendations regarding the pay and allowances of the personnel of the R I A F?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communiqué dated the 20th September 1946 on the subject, a copy of which is laid on the table.

The Services Post-War Pay Committee are considering scales of Pay for all the three Services these scales will be inter-related. Their recommendations for the R I A F will be made at the same time as their recommendations for the Army and the R I N. It is also the policy of Government that the rates of pay for the Armed Forces should, in future, bear a relationship to civilian wages and it will be appreciated that the linking of service rates of pay with the pay of civilian Government servants is a very complicated matter. The new rates of pay for the Armed Forces will however be issued as soon as possible after Government have reached a decision on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission.

Press Communiqué, dated the 20th September 1946

"The Services Post-War Pay Committee has been working for some months on a new Pay Code for the Indian personnel of the three Services. The policy of the Government of India is that the rates of pay for the Armed Forces shall in future bear relationship to civilian wages in India.

Now the Government of India has set up a Central Pay Commission to enquire into the future pay and conditions of living of civilian servants of the Government.

Obviously the conclusions arrived at by the Central Pay Commission must be linked with those of the Services Committee. This means that it is unlikely that any decision will be reached before the end of this year and that it will not be possible to announce the new Services Pay Code before the end of the year or perhaps for several months after it."

B O R 's IN R I A F

662. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state how many B O R's have been taken in the R I A F during the last three months?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: None, Sir.

REGULATIONS *re* USE OF HEAD LIGHTS IN MOTOR CARS IN NEW DELHI

663. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the authority that prescribes the conditions under which motor vehicles are allowed to be run on the roads of New Delhi,

(b) whether there is any regulation as regards the use of dim lights and head lights in motor cars,

(c) whether there are any orders prohibiting the use of head lights and directing the use of dim lights only in particular cases,

(d) whether Government are aware that the motor cars in New Delhi do not use dim lights and that this often endangers the safety of pedestrians and others; and

(e) whether Government propose to issue instructions requiring motor cars coming from opposite directions to switch off their head lights and switch on their dim lights instead, when approaching each other?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Chief Commissioner, Delhi

(b) and (c) Yes Rule 6-15(1) of the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, requires motor drivers so to manipulate the lights that no undue inconvenience or danger is caused to any person by dazzle

(d) Yes

(e) The question of issuing instructions forbidding altogether the use of dazzling head-lights within the Municipal limits of Delhi, New Delhi, the Notified Area Committee and the Fort Notified Area Committee is under consideration

*** RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HINDI URDU RADIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*** 664. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) whether Government have arrived at any conclusions as regards the recommendations of the Hindi Urdu Radio Advisory Committee, if so what,

(b) whether Government propose to lay a copy of the Report of the Committee on the table of the House,

(c) whether it is a fact that the representative of the Urdu Anjuman advocated the broadcasting of news in Hindi and Urdu separately, and

(d) whether Government propose to assign to Hindi its place according to the numbers of Hindi-speaking people?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me on the 13th November 1946 to Seth Govind Das's question No 482

(b) I shall consider the question of publication of the report of the Committee when a decision is reached on its recommendations

(c) and (d) These are matters covered by the recommendations of the committee and will naturally claim my attention during the consideration of the whole subject

CONVICTION OF INDIAN ENEMY AGENTS IN INDIA

665. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the number, names and addresses of Indians who have been executed as Enemy Agents,

(b) the number and names of Enemy Agents who came from East Asia and have been convicted as such in India,

(c) the number and names of persons who collaborated with those persons in India and were convicted for such collaboration;

(d) the number and names of those who have been convicted by a court martial and have not yet been released, and

(e) the policy of the Government of India with regard to the persons referred to in parts (b), (c) and (d) above?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Thirteen persons were executed as a result of their trial under the Enemy Agents Ordinance, 1943. A statement giving their names and addresses is laid on the table

(b) The number including those mentioned in (a) above is 26. A list of their names is laid on the table

(c) There were two such persons, namely, Jyotish Chandra Bose and Haridas Mitra

(d) My information is that no enemy agent has been convicted by a Court Martial -

(e) The Government of India have already released ten persons who were undergoing imprisonment and were convicted in Delhi. The Government of

Madras have released one person who had been convicted and was detained in Madras. The cases of the four remaining persons have been referred to the Government of Bengal with a recommendation for release as they are the concern of the Provincial Government.

(a) Names and addresses of Indians who have been executed as Enemy Agents, as a result of trial under the Enemy Agents Ordinance

Serial No.	Name	Address
<i>Madras Case No 1</i>		
1	Vava Kunhu Ahmad Abdul Kadir or V M A Kadir s/o Vavakunhu Vakkom	Vakom, Chirayankuzh, Travancore, Madras
2	S C. (Satyendra Chandra) Bardhan, S/o Dinesh Chandra Bardhan	Bitgah, Tippera, Bengal
3	Fauja Singh S/o Bent Singh	Marhara, District Amritsar, Punjab
4	Parasubhavan Thakur Abhujanand or S A. Anand S/o M Parasu Pillay	Thykad, Tiruvandrum Town
<i>Madras Case No 2</i>		
5	T P Kumaran Nair alias Kumaran Nair S/o K Krishna Panikkar	Village Nellikode, P O Puthiyara, Ammam, Calicut Taluk, District Malabar, Madras
6	Ramu Thevar alias Appaoo, S/o Ramalinga Thevar	Thumbadakkai Kottai, Paramakudi Taluk, Ramnad District, Madras
<i>Delhi Case No 1</i>		
7	Ajaib Singh S/o Sundar Singh Jat (Ghang)	Village Kallha, P S Taran Taran, District Amritsar, Punjab
8	Zahur Ahmad S/o Ghulam Qadir	Village Theor, Chak No 117, P O Sangla, District Sheikhupura, Punjab
9	S L Mazumdar S/o Nagendra Lal Mazumdar (Dead)	South Katoh, P O Paha Katoh, P S Dubal Murug, District Chittagong, Bengal
<i>Madras Case No 3</i>		
10	Nandu Kandi Kanaran alias Ghosh, S/o Kelappan	Peyyoh, Kurumbanad
11	Tulasi Ramaswami alias Muthamani, S/o Ramis Pillai	Singapore
12	Ratnam Pillai alias Murti S/o Thulasi	Thirumangala Kottai, Pattukottai Taluk
13	Sethu alias Krishna, S/o Dhanakoti Chettiar	Manjur, Paramakudi Taluk.

(b) Names of Enemy Agents who came from East Asia and have been convicted as such in India (The list includes the names of those who have been executed).

1 V M A Kadir, 2 S C Bardhan, 3 Fauja Singh, 4 S A Anand, 5 Bonifacio B. Pereira, 6 T P V Kumaran Nair, 7 Ramu Thevar alias Appaoo, 8 Ajaib Singh, 9 Zahur Ahmad, 10 S L Mazumdar, 11 Sham Lal Pande, 12 Audeshwar Bai Pande, 13. Sohan Singh, 14 Ganga Singh, 15 Sadhu Singh, 16 Sukhohan Nath Chopra, 17 Ram Dulare Dube, 18 Sri Bhagwat Upadhyay, 19 Kartar Singh, Electrician W. O Coy, I A O C, 20. 4793 Sower Kanwal Singh, 2 B.L., 21 Pabitra Mohan Ray, 22. Amrik Singh Bill, 23. Nandu Kandi Kanaran alias Ghosh, 24. Tulasi Ramaswami alias Muthamani, 25. Ratnam Pillai alias Murti, 26. Sethu alias Krishna.

**ARREARS OF PAY AND THE APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MEN IN
BRITISH INDIAN ARMY**

666. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) the arrears of pay of Indian National Army men who were in the British Indian Army during the period of their status as prisoners of war, and the reasons for withholding payment,

(b) the policy of the present Government of India regarding the payment of these arrears, and

(c) the policy of the Government of India with regard to the appointment of Indian National Army men in the British Indian Army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) There are now no arrears of pay due to the I N A men.

(b) and (c) The Interim Government have not yet considered these matters.

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF DELHI PROVINCE

667. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the continuance of undemocratic conditions in the Chief Commissioner's Province of Delhi is greatly resented by the people of the Province,

(b) whether Government are aware that a demand for the appointment of an Advisory Council consisting of elected representatives of the people with a view to advise the Chief Commissioner on all important administrative questions has been made by the people of Delhi from time to time,

(c) whether Government are aware that Mr Asaf Ali, the then Member for Delhi, had also addressed a letter to the Chief Commissioner on the subject, and

(d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to appoint an Advisory Council with a view to democratise the present system of administration in Delhi, if so, how long it will take, and what will be the nature of the Advisory Council, and whether its advice would be normally binding on the Chief Commissioner?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) The Government of India have received representations expressing dissatisfaction with the present administrative structure in the Province of Delhi.

(c) Yes

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply given on the 8th November 1946 to starred question No 345 by Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bharghava

CIRCUIT HIGH COURT AT DELHI

668. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the long standing demand of the people of Delhi, for a Circuit High Court at Delhi? If so, do Government propose to do anything in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Such proposals or proposals of a similar nature have been brought to the notice of the Government of India at intervals between 1923 and 1937, but have hitherto been rejected on both technical and practical grounds. No representations on this subject have been received from popular bodies since 1937. The Chief Commissioner has, however recently reopened the question in correspondence with the Lahore High Court and I will in due course examine the proposals which result from this correspondence.

LOAN OF SERVICES OF AN OFFICER AS DIRECTOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN HYDERABAD STATE.

669. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state if it is a fact that some time back the Hyderabad Durbar asked through the External Affairs Department for the services of a certain officer in the Archaeological Department on loan for appointment as Director of Archaeology in that State

(b) What action was taken by that Department in this matter, and how does the matter now stand?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b) A demi-official enquiry has been received on behalf of the Hyderabad State in regard to the loan, in certain contingencies of the services of an officer of the Archaeological Department for appointment as the Director of Archaeology in the State. A reply has been sent but there is no commitment on either side. No request has so far been made officially in the matter.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO PENSIONERS

87. Raizada Hans Raj: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the concession of dearness allowance has been given to Government Pensioners drawing pensions up to Rs. 100? If so at what rate and on what principles?

(b) Is dearness allowance allowed to pensioners drawing pensions between Rs. 100 and Rs. 250? If not, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Mr. Luqat Ali Khan: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the rates of the temporary increase in the pensions are as follows—

Pensions not exceeding Rs. 20 p m—Temp. increase of Rs. 4 p m

Pensions exceeding Rs. 20 p m but not exceeding Rs. 60 p m—Temp. increase of Rs. 5 p m

Pensions exceeding Rs. 60 p m but not exceeding Rs. 100 p m—Temp. increase of Rs. 6 p m,

Pensions exceeding Rs. 100 p m but not exceeding Rs. 106 p m receive such increase as will bring the total pension to Rs. 106 per mensem.

These rates are based on the suggestions made by the Provincial Governments who are vitally concerned in the matter.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, it is considered that retired official drawing pensions between Rs. 100 and Rs. 250 p m are not in the same need of relief as are those drawing pensions below Rs. 100 p m. Moreover the heavy expenditure involved precludes any further liberalisation of the existing scheme, the additional cost of which is already about Rs. 127.5 lacs.

NON-RECOGNITION OF A. M. S. DIPLOMA OF THE BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY BY MEDICAL COUNCIL OF INDIA.

88. Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Health Department please state

(a) whether it is a fact that the A. M. S. Degree of the Benares Hindu University is awarded after proper training and examination by the said University in modern medical subjects including Anatomy, Physiology, Materia Medica, Medicine, Surgery, Pathology, etc.,

(b) whether it is a fact that Degrees and Diplomas of this University are recognised by the Government of India, and

(c) whether it is a fact that the A. M. S. Degree of the said University has not yet been recognised by the Medical Council of India and if so the reasons for withholding this recognition?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Government are aware that instruction is given in the subjects mentioned

(b) Yes

(c) The A. M. S. degree of the Benares Hindu University has not been recognised under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933. The authorities of the University have not so far applied for the recognition of this qualification.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FORWARD TRADING IN GOLD AND SILVER

Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Have Government received a complaint or representation with regard to the future trading in gold and silver?

(b) Have their attention been drawn to a leading article in the *Times of India*, dated the 8th of October 1946?

(c) In view of the international importance of gold and silver, will Government have the entire machinery for forward trading in these articles examined in consultation with the Provincial Governments?

(d) Will Government have the question examined whether Government of India cannot interfere in order to lay down just and proper standards of trading, including deliveries against contracts?

• **The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

(c) and (d) Government are aware that the existing methods of forward trading in some of the bullion exchanges are highly undesirable and require to be rectified. Regulation of trading on the exchanges falls mainly under item 27 of the Provincial Legislative List but legislation can be undertaken by the Centre if all Provinces agree to this course. It is realised that proper regulation of exchanges is impossible without uniform and simultaneous action in all Provinces and that Central legislation would be the best way of achieving such uniformity. The Government of India have, therefore, already instituted enquiries into the working of stock exchanges and have asked all Provincial Governments whether they would agree to Central legislation for their regulation. Similar action in regard to bullion exchanges is contemplated. The Government are also bringing to the notice of the Bombay Government the desirability of taking early steps to check the speculative activities of the bullion exchange in Bombay.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Since Government are going to have a co-ordinating law for the whole country if the Provincial Governments agree, may I also bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member that there are two or three places in Indian States where also forward dealings in future transactions of gold and silver are taking place (*An Honourable Member!* No) and it would be desirable—by negotiations no doubt—to bring them also to accept the same rules and conditions which would prevail in British India?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: All that I can tell my Honourable friend here is that the States will also be consulted in this matter and it can only be on their voluntary co-operation that anything can be done.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if forward contracts are not in the interest of this country so long as Government is not able to purchase gold from foreign countries and it is not desirable to allow merchants to get as much gold bullion as possible?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: That is also one of the matters that will be examined.

USE OF FIRE ARMS BY HOOLIGANS IN BENGAL AND AMENDMENT OF INDIAN ARMS ACT

Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether the policy to be followed by the present Government in regard to the Indian Arms Act has come up for consideration with a view either to its repeal or substantial amendment? If so, when is any action in this direction likely to be taken?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the use to which rifles, guns and revolvers have been and are being put in different parts of Bengal by hooligans in the commission of crime in connection with the communal riots?

(c) Is it any part of the duty of the Central Intelligence Bureau to keep watch over unlawful acquisition and use of arms of this character? If so, has

the Bureau kept Government regularly informed about the extent of the mischief now prevailing, indicating the possible sources of supply of these arms?

(d) Do Government propose to take into early consideration the desirability of repealing or amending the Indian Arms Act, so as to facilitate the possession of arms by law-abiding citizens for purposes of self-defence?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No The second part of the question does not arise

(b) I have seen press reports to this effect

(c) The Central Intelligence Bureau is concerned only with securing information regarding loss or theft of certain categories of arms and ammunition. The matters referred to by the Honourable Member are primarily the concern of Provincial Governments

(d) The matter will be considered and if in the light of the decision reached it becomes necessary, the question of amendment of the Act will be examined

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the Honourable Member's answer to part (c) of my question, do I understand that the functions of the Central Intelligence Bureau are strictly limited to the extent that the Honourable Member has indicated, and that it is not open to the Government of India to extend the scope of the activities of the Central Intelligence Bureau so as to bring the enquiry that I have indicated within that scope?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As I understand it, the scope of the Central Intelligence Bureau is limited to the position that I have stated

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know under what authority has the scope of the activities of the Central Intelligence Bureau been thus limited?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Under the authority under which the Central Intelligence Bureau exercises its functions

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a Statutory authority which cannot be amended by any Government or Legislature?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: All acts can be amended by the Legislature

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the Honourable Member's promise made earlier this morning that he would repeal the Arms Act if every one turned into a burglar, and in view of the further fact that almost all of us are becoming stabbers, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of repealing the Arms Act?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: All Members of the Central Assembly have licences to keep arms but many of them do not have arms

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to my Honourable friend's answer to my last question may I know whether Government propose to take up the question of revising the scope of the functions of the Central Intelligence Bureau in the direction indicated by me?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The functions of the Central Intelligence Bureau are being shrivelled up instead of being expanded

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member kindly indicate the reasons for thus restricting the scope?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The reason is the expansion of Provincial Autonomy

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Since most of the Members of the House do not possess arms will the Honourable Member endeavour to make available to the Honourable Members arms and ammunition for which they will be prepared to pay?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They will get them if they apply to their Provincial Governments

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I remind the Honourable Member that the Bombay Provincial Government has prohibited the sale of arms?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: That prohibition does not apply to the Honourable Member or the Members of the Central Legislature.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to advise what a Member of this Assembly has to do when his application for arms to his Provincial Government is neither granted nor refused, but kept pending?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In that case the remedy is to take steps to influence the Provincial Government

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member in reply to a previous question advised the people to organise self-defence instead of depending on the police. May I know what advice the Honourable Member has to give to those law-abiding people who are confronted by hooligans armed with firearms?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Government of the Province is responsible in that behalf

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: In view of the fact that most of the victims of these riots are poor people who have not money for firearms, will the Honourable Member take that into consideration?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Every voter in the North-West Frontier Province is entitled to keep arms!

Sjt N. V. Gadgil: May I know from the Honourable Member that in view of the disturbances all over the country if respectable people are armed will not the disturbances be fewer?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I cannot express any opinion. It occasionally happens that the dacoits or goondas snatch away arms from those who have licences

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the gradual restriction of the scope and the activities of the Central Intelligence Bureau, as referred to by my Honourable friend, will the Honourable Member be pleased to refer to the relevant recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee in regard to the functions of this very body, where the importance of the work left to it in regard to detection of terrorist activities, has been mentioned?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Those activities were of a very different nature

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that what is happening in the country cannot come within that description?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They dealt with political terrorist activities

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What steps does the Honourable the Home Member propose to take, as the Member in charge of the Centrally Administered areas, to safeguard the life and property of the poor people?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: All necessary steps will be taken to protect the life and property of people in the Centrally Administered areas

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Member just tell me what is the position with regard to the possession of swords by almost every Sikh in Delhi? Is that freely allowed or are other communities also allowed to possess swords?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Sikhs are allowed to keep the kirpans on religious grounds

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Is a sword a kirpan or not, because every Sikh is now wearing a sword?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Different places have different conditions. In the Punjab a Sikh is allowed to keep a sword and a kirpan. But in the Centrally Administered areas the Sikhs are allowed to keep kirpans.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether in this province the size of a kirpan has increased to that of a sword?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is no scheduled size

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan: Will other members be allowed to keep kirpans?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If other communities adopt the Sikh religion, certainly they will be allowed

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: If a kirpan can be used as a weapon and it can be used for terrorising people, then why should other people, for their protection, not be allowed to keep kirpans, if one community is allowed to keep kirpans as an emblem of religion

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: If the other communities do not consider it a religious duty to keep such weapons, then they are not allowed to do so

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: Does the Honourable Member mean that, if some communities think that peaceful living is part of their religion and other people think that keeping of arms by which they can kill the peaceful people, is part of their duty, he will not allow the peaceful people to protect themselves?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: In a country inhabited by many sects and different religions the different religious susceptibilities of people are respected by the laws and customs of the country

Dr. Zia'Uddin Ahmad: During the regime of Sir Fazl-i-Hussain the point rose about the definition of the kirpan and it was said that its length would be in inches. But now it has extended to feet. It has now ceased to be a kirpan and it has become a regular sword

Mr. President: That is an observation!

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are Sikhs allowed only to keep kirpans and also to use them?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: They are allowed for both purposes

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: My Honourable friend said that in the Punjab members of all communities are allowed to wear swords. In view of that, will my Honourable friend consider allowing others to wear swords in Delhi as a defensive weapon?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am informed that Sikhs are allowed to do so. But they are not allowed to keep swords in the Centrally Administered Areas

NON-RETURN OF CASH AND THE VALUABLES REMOVED FROM PERSON OF ARRESTED I N A MEN

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state whether it is a fact that some cash deposits and valuable articles such as watches, fountain pens, etc., belonging to the I N A prisoners were removed by the British Military Police at the time of their arrest in personal search with the avowed object of depositing the same in the safe custody of the Camp authorities, and that in some cases their value amounted to several thousand rupees, but this property was never returned to the prisoners at the time of their release and that no record or accounts are available to show that the cash and valuables so recovered, were deposited with the Camp authorities?

(b) Is it a fact that some petitions were actually filed before the Court Martial Tribunals but the Tribunal's invariably replied that there was nothing on record to show that any private property belonging to the prisoners have been recovered in personal search?

(c) Is it a fact that a sum of Rs 5,200 was recovered from the person of Mr S M Bashir, (whose number at Jikargatchha Camp was L 8070 and at Kabul Lines, Delhi, B '1265) on the 29th June, 1945, at Calcutta Jettv and that he was told while he was at Jikargatchha Camp (near Calcutta) that the money had been deposited with the Camp Commandant, but this money was not paid back to him at the time of his release on the 27th December 1945, from Kabul Lines, Delhi?

(d) Did he send several applications to the Military authorities in this connection and also made a representation to the Honourable the Defence Member in September 1946?

(e) If the replies to (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken, or do Government propose to take, in the matter? Will they order an immediate enquiry?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) In conformity with the prescribed procedure, all prisoners were searched before their arrival at the Holding and Enquiry Centres and money in their possession was removed by the Interrogation authorities. A receipt was invariably given for articles and money so removed. A record does exist of cash deposits and articles, etc., which were taken away from the I N A prisoners and the property belonging to these personnel was in the majority of cases returned to the owners on their release. In the remaining cases every effort has been made to trace and forward articles and money to those who did not receive them when released. The reason why some I N A men did not receive their articles is that in several cases the men gave fictitious or incorrect addresses with the result that money orders and articles sent to them were returned.

(b) The Holding and Enquiry Centres where the majority of personnel were held have now been disbanded and it is therefore not possible to ascertain whether petitions were actually filed before the Courts. There is, however, no mention of such petitions in the Court of Enquiry proceedings.

(c) A sum of Rs. 4,965 was taken from Mr. Bashir and it has not been returned to him so far. Enquiries are being made and the question of paying him this sum of money known to have been taken from him is being considered.

(d) Yes, Sir, Mr. Bashir did make a statement to the effect that a sum of Rs. 5,200 was removed from his person in July, 1945. This statement was made by him in a letter addressed to the Honourable the Defence Member on the 29th of September, 1946.

(e) Government are enquiring into the case of Mr. Bashir.

Lala Deshbhandhu Gupta: May I know from the Honourable Member the number of cases in which money orders were returned unacknowledged or unaccepted?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I must ask for notice of that question.

Lala Deshbhandhu Gupta: May I know the reason for the delay in making the payment to Mr. Bashir? What is the difficulty?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Government have to satisfy themselves that there are no claims outstanding against the person concerned before making the refund of the money taken from him.

Lala Deshbhandhu Gupta: How long will it take the Honourable Defence Secretary to make the refund?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I hope, not very long.

INVITATION TO MR. COMPTON MACKENZIE, TO WRITE HISTORY OF INDIA'S WAR EFFORT

Lala Deshbhandhu Gupta: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 6th November, 1946, on page 2, and column 6 saying that Dr. Compton Mackenzie has been selected to write a short popular history of India's War Effort,

(b) whether it is true that he has been selected by the Government of India for this job; if so, the special reasons which led the Government of India to entrust this important task to an outsider; and

(c) whether he will be paid for by the Government for this job; if so, what will be the amount that will be paid to him?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The Government of India sent to the U. K. a representative empowered to discuss with publishers of good standing the question of obtaining the services of an author whose name was sufficiently well known to ensure good sales for a popular history of India's war effort. The decision to invite Mr Mackenzie to undertake this task was taken by the publishers in consultation with the Government of India's representative. The publication of this work will be undertaken by the publishers and will involve no expense to the Government of India who will merely provide facilities for the author. No Indian author of repute was found who was prepared to undertake the work on these terms, but Mr Mackenzie has stated that as soon as an Indian author could be found who would be willing to undertake the work on these terms, he would make no difficulty about the withdrawal of the contract made by him with his publishers.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know what steps were taken by the Government to find out whether any Indian author of repute was willing to undertake this work or not?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I might mention that Mr Panikkar, who is a well known historian was addressed on the subject and I understand that he did not show much interest in this matter.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know whether the Honourable Member took pains to consult the Education Department and also the various Universities in India on the subject to find out if one of their Professors in History was prepared to undertake this job?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The historical section of the G H Q. made the necessary enquiries from the persons they considered competent to advise in the matter.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr Panikkar ceased to be a professor many years ago and has never been a Professor of History?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not think it is necessary to go into the merits of Mr Panikkar.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether any University Professors or other historians have been addressed on the matter?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I have not got that information with me at the moment but in the press communiqué which was issued it was stated that attempts to interest Indian authors privately and through the press have hitherto been without result.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: False.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not think that the Honourable Member should say that it is false.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if Government will now take steps to invite Indian authors of repute to undertake this work?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have already said that if any Indian author of repute comes forward to accept this task on these terms, Government will readily provide the same facilities which have been provided for Mr Compton Mackenzie.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is not a fact that the Government of India have agreed to arrange to send photographers and other accessories for the purpose to enable this gentleman to gather the materials at the expense of the Central Government?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: This is included in the term "facilities", which the Government of India will provide to the author to enable him to do justice to the task which he has undertaken, namely, the preparation of a popular history which will give an account of India's war effort (that has been considerable and we are specially proud of it) in language which would be creditable to the country.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what the estimated cost of these facilities is?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No estimate of the cost is available, but I do not think it can be very much. As I said the cost involved is only the cost of travelling and incidental costs, like what my Honourable friend mentioned, photographs etc.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will it be some lakhs of rupees—approximately?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I have not got the figures.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: In what language does the material exist for writing Indian History and has the Honourable gentleman got any familiarity with that language?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The material exists in English and Mr Mackenzie who is an author of world wide fame surely knows English.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know if Government have considered the question that a popular history can better be written in an Indian language rather than in English?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: It is the intention of the Government of India to translate this work when it is ready in the Indian languages.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has given what may only be called a tendentious answer, may we inquire if the Government have already given tips to this author as to what he should write? When the Honourable Member seems to be very proud of his war effort does he expect the author to be the same? Will he be ready to give me the task? I hold a Tripos degree in History from Cambridge.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I suggest that it is a matter of opinion—whether the reply I gave was tendentious or not, but I can say straightaway that Mr Mackenzie himself has made a public statement that if the work he produces does not satisfy the Indian people, he will feel that he has not done his work.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: May I know whether Mr Compton Mackenzie is a very well known writer of fiction and whether the Government consider that in the writing of history, an author who has distinguished himself in writing fiction is best qualified?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I think my Honourable friend is not well aware of the works written by Mr Compton Mackenzie.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I want to know.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: In addition to fiction, for which he is famous, he has written a number of memoirs of Greece and other places when he served during the first great war of 1914—1918, and he has also written some historical works.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member now circularise and invite applications from professors of history in the various colleges and universities in order to find out if Indian authors of repute are available for this purpose, and offer them the same terms?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The announcement made in this Honourable House is sufficient publicity to enable any author who is interested in this project to approach the Government of India. I should make it clear that in addition to this popular history the intention of the Government of India is to compile an official factual history which will probably consist of several volumes, which is being written in the historical section, by the Government of India's own officers; there will also be a student's history which will be utilised at the staff college which will not consist of the same number of volumes as the bigger and detailed official history.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is that the intention of the late Government or of the present Government?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That is the intention of the present Government also.

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: When the Honourable Member said that besides fiction this gentleman has written some historical works, what historical value have these works got? Have they any historical value?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That is a matter of opinion. Surely Mr Mackenzie is a gentleman of world wide fame and I suggest that works written by him are prized works.

(Some honourable members rose to ask questions.)

Mr. President: Order, order. I am calling the next question. This has been sufficiently discussed.

STORE PURCHASE RULES FOLLOWED BY THE ARMY DEPARTMENT

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state—

(a) whether the Store Purchase Rules are followed by the Army Department in respect of orders placed abroad, if not, why not,

(b) whether it is correct that foodstuff and machinery now available in India are not purchased by the Army Department and imported from abroad, and

(c) whether the National Government have changed the policy of encouraging Indian Industry?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The Store Purchase Rules have been followed by the Defence Department subject only to certain modifications necessitated by the war.

(b) No, Sir, Demands for machinery and warlike stores have been placed on the India Office only for those stores which could not be produced in India. All items which can be produced in India according to the required specification are procured from indigenous sources through the Industries and Supply Department. Indigenous foodstuffs purchased for the Armed Forces in India are obtained for the Defence Department by the Food Department in accordance with the estimates given by the Quartermaster General, India. The only foodstuffs imported are those which cannot be produced in India to the required specifications or in the required quantity.

(c) No, Sir, there has been no change whatsoever. The policy, as before, is to encourage Indian industry as much as possible. An Inter-Departmental Committee is actually now considering the question of defining what types of military equipment and stores can be locally procured through the Industries and Supply Department.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State.

"I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting held on the 15th November, 1946, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 11th and 12th November 1946, namely—

1 A Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

2 A Bill to provide for the continuance during a limited period of powers to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain commodities

3 A Bill to make provision for the constitution of a special police force for the Chief Commissioner's Province of Delhi for the investigation of certain offences committed in connection with matters concerning Departments of the Central Government for the superintendence and administration of the said force and for the extension to other areas in British India of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the said force in regard to the investigation of the said offences."

RESOLUTION *RE* RUNNING OF CIVIL AVIATION AS A STATE DEPARTMENT—*contd*

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) Sir, it is generally considered to be a difficult position for a man when his convictions conflict with the interests of an organisation with which he may be connected. I have come to the conclusion that it is an even more difficult position when one's convictions happen to coincide or not conflict with the call of the organisation to which one may happen to belong. I happen to belong to a firm, which in its turn happens, among its multifarious activities, to run one of India's airlines, and so last week, when this debate was on, I desisted from speaking, and I would still have done so if it had not been for the fact that the debate on the last occasion widened from a discussion on civil aviation to a wider discussion on the pros and cons of nationalisation of all industries and services. One of the Honourable members, my friend Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, went so far as to say that our decision in this case would be a test for similar decisions to be taken in the case of other industries and services. It is that which induces me to put before the House a few considerations, and I trust that the Honourable House and, in particular, the Mover, Sardar Mangal Singh, and those who support him will accept my assurance that what I say here is based on my own views, previously expressed in writing on various occasions and over a long time, and are solely in furtherance of my duty to my own constituency and to the country.

On February 26 this year, when this House was debating the question of road-rail co-ordination, I had occasion to oppose the scheme on the ground that it smacked of monopoly. This is what I said on that day:

"I say this scheme savours strongly of monopoly. I would like to oppose the very conception of monopoly as applied to our transport service. I do so though I am a socialist. According to my socialist faith I do not believe it is necessary to support any and every measure of nationalisation. Nationalisation, after all, is an instrument, a means to an end, and if it impedes social justice in a particular case it impedes the spreading of democracy to the economic sphere of life, then, I Sir, would oppose it."

I then went on to say:

"India is big enough for more railways, more roads, more shipping and more air lines. We want healthy competition between all these modes of transport. That is the only guarantee that new technical developments will be utilised and that efficiency will be maintained on both sides. Therefore, if the railways fear competition their first duty is to put their house in order."

Now, Sir, these considerations in opposing monopoly apply with even stronger force than in the case of road transport to the development of civil aviation in our country. There was a certain amount of loose talk about nationalisation on the last occasion. The word was used in two diametrically opposite senses. The first meaning was that given to the term by Sardar Mangal Singh and his supporters and they understood nationalisation to mean State ownership and management. On the other hand my friend Diwan Chaman Lal, in moving his amendment, made it clear that he understood nationalisation to include State ownership or State control and he said that in that sense he also supported nationalisation.

I have taken the trouble of looking up the dictionary in trying to decide as to whether my friend Sardar Mangal Singh or Diwan Chaman Lal was right and this is what the Oxford Dictionary says. It defines 'nationalisation' to be "the action of bringing land, property, industries under the control of the nation." To 'nationalise' is "to bring under the control of to convert into the property, of, the nation", and Webster endorses this by saying—to 'nationalise' is "to vest the control, ownership, or the like, of in the nation." It is perfectly clear therefore that the correct meaning of the word 'nationalisation' is the meaning given by Diwan Chaman Lal and in that sense we of the Congress Party are committed to nationalisation. We propose to remain committed to

[Mr M R Masani]

it and we propose to implement our pledges in this behalf The Congress Election Manifesto is clear on this point It says:

"It will be necessary to plan and co-ordinate social advance in all its many fields, to prevent the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of individuals and groups, to prevent vested interests inimical to society from growing, and to have social control of the mineral resources, means of transport and the principal methods of production and distribution in land, industry and in other departments of national activity, so that free India may develop into a co-operative commonwealth

The State must, therefore, own or control key and basic industries and services, mineral resources, railways, waterways, shipping and other means of public transport "

This makes it perfectly clear that we of this party do not accept nationalisation in the narrow sense of State ownership and management We have, very wisely left the door open to social ownership or control as the needs of the situation may dictate

Our industries and services are developed in very varying degrees Some are old established and have made great advance Others are nascent They have just been born and are still at an elementary and rudimentary stage, and to apply the same footrule and standard of measurement to all these various industries and services would not only be dogmatic and doctrinaire but also disastrous to the country The only test one can apply is the test which my Honourable friend, Mr C Rajagopalachari, mentioned when he was Minister for Industries and Supplies, and that was that India's biggest need today is increased production We want much more of goods and much more of services and the only test, and the supreme test, by which we can decide what form of social control we shall apply to any particular industry or service is whether or not it will give us more production or better service, because that is India's prime need

Judged by that test, my attention would turn first to the administrative machinery that we possess at present I shall not comment on it beyond saying that we have inherited from the British Raj a very rudimentary machinery of Government confined primarily to law and order and the collection of revenue I would ask the House to accept the statement of the present Minister for Industries and Civil Supplies, Dr Matthai, who in the recent debate on controls expressed himself as follows

[At this stage Mr President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan)]

"Here we had to put into operation the system of controls through an administrative system which had grown up through the years with an entirely negative outlook We had at present an administrative organisation in the country built up over a period of 20 years, the main business of which during this period had been to prevent things being done and to maintain law and order It was a police Government on the foundation of which they had to erect a system of regulation rather than prevention"

The Honourable Mover of this Resolution and his supporters want exactly this police government, this rudimentary government, which has still to be built up, to be vested with the day to day management of a highly specialised service of this kind (An Honourable Member: What about Railways?) I shall come to that It is already an overburdened service and what you are doing now is to place on the Government the additional burden of running our airlines That, Sir, is far neither to the administrative apparatus nor to the country And I was not surprised that in the Statement of Policy made by the predecessor in office of the present Honourable Member for Communications on September 30, a frank admission was made by Government; and we were told in answer to a question on the 6th instant that it was then the policy of the Government of India as a whole That statement said that Government "machinery is not as yet so highly developed as to enable it to undertake actual operations in aviation" The then Communications Member went on to express the hope that "on account of private enterprise, greater facilities, efficiency and courtesy will be available to the passengers than if the services were to be nationalised at this stage".

The real issue before us today is not between private enterprise in an unregulated sense and State enterprise. The issue is a narrow issue between two different forms of nationalisation, namely, State ownership and management or State control without ownership and management (*An Honourable Member*: What about profit?) I shall presently come to that. During the last ten or fifteen years, many socialists in various countries, who had sworn by State ownership and management, have had occasion to revise their views in view of the menace of totalitarian dictatorship that has sprung up in that period, and I shall quote to the House the views of Professor G. D. H. Cole, an eminent socialist, whose name is well known as an expounder of Marxism and socialism during the last two decades. This is what he says in his book *Great Britain In The Post-War World*:

"There is no need to socialise at once all the forms of production it may prove desirable to socialise some time nor is there any reason why a form of production socialised at first, should not be handed back, under proper safeguards, to private enterprise if socialisation does not yield good results. Within a single branch of production there may be some parts which it is desirable to socialise and others which are best left under private ownership and control. The more gigantic the essential instruments of power become, the greater grows the danger that in centralising their administration, we may be drawn to create a political machine too vast and complicated to be amenable to any real democratic control, and may thus become ourselves the victims of the very power-mania, which we are organising ourselves to defeat. It is a clear lesson of recent history that democracy cannot be real unless it rests on small groups as its basic units—on groups all enough to be competently administered and led by men of normal stature and mental make up."

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Mr. M. R. Masani: I have not taken more than ten minutes now by my watch, and the clocks in the House hence stopped. May I therefore have another five minutes?

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member must finish in two minutes.

Mr. M. R. Masani: If that is so, Sir, I shall now come to the kernel of the matter. My friend here talked of profits. My Honourable friend should know that measures have already been taken to see that excessive profits are not made in aviation by the industrialists. Under the present system of licensing, many forms of control are already in existence in regard to types of aircraft, the qualifications of the crew, the frequency of the services, the time tables, and fares, and so it follows automatically that profits can also be controlled through the control of fares. And I hope they will be controlled. But there is no need for State ownership in order to control profits. In fact, in so trying to hurt the man who is making profits, you will be hurting the country a hundred-fold.

The Honourable the Home Member really came to the root of the matter in his very brief but cogent intervention on the last occasion. He pointed out that our feet are not yet on solid ground and that therefore this is not the time to launch on hazardous ventures in the air. That is true not only politically and administratively, but also economically. Our primary duty to the people of this country is to meet the basic needs of life,—food, clothing, housing, hospitals and schools. Have we performed that duty? Has our administrative machinery been developed sufficiently to give our people even their basic needs? And if, unfortunately it is not, are we entitled to fritter away our energies on projects like this when we are failing in our primary duties? That is the real problem. And I do think that if we apply the test as to whether State control on the one hand or State ownership on the other will give better results in civil aviation and if we put aside pre-conceived ideas about this 'ism' or that, there is only one answer,—and I am confident that Government, when they consider the matter, must come to it,—and that is that the present system of strict regulation of every department and aspect of this service will give the best results. And if they do that, we can then concentrate on our task of doing first things first.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal European) Mr Deputy President, civil aviation is a subject in which my Group and I have neither any financial or any managing interest. We are interested solely as members of the public, as users and we are anxious that this debate should not come to a conclusion without our paying tribute to the excellent pioneering work which has been done by civil aviation in recent years. That is a fact, that is an achievement of the greatest importance to which we wish to pay our tribute of praise. And we are most anxious to see that this good work which has been begun and is going ahead should not be ended or impeded or sacrificed to any loose thinking regarding the question of nationalisation. We view this matter strictly from the practical angle. We have a good service and we want to go on having a good service and that, I suggest, is the best test of any transport system.

What has been the history of State management in India? My Honourable friend Mr Joshi interpolated in the last speech "What about the railways?" What about the railways, indeed! I suggest that any impartial critic who takes the trouble to go into the history of railway management will come to the same conclusions that have been come to recently, in a study of the subject, by Professor Natesan. I do not propose to follow Professor Natesan through all the details of a closely reasoned study, but it is very important, I think, that the House should have in mind the main conclusions which Professor Natesan, an impartial Indian critic, comes to. His final conclusion is that three charges can be sustained against State management. In the first place, administrative inefficiency and the creation of vested interests of the administrators in the continuance of a particular type of administration. Secondly, that State services are less responsive than privately operated services to public opinion. Thirdly, that there is a lack of initiative and flexibility.

Now, Sir, these are factors which must strike at the root of any loose and doctrinaire thinking or speaking on the subject of nationalisation, and I suggest that, if these considerations are not taken into account, the future of civil aviation will be equally vitiated. These are considerations which are not primarily political or constitutional. It is reasonable and proper that they should be debated in this House, but the decisions will be the worse rather than the better for the intrusion of political and constitutional considerations. These are administrative problems which require the utmost and most careful consideration.

What, Sir, again, has been the history of road transport? As a result of premature action and premature discussion, road transport today is in a state of suspended animation, if it is not actually dead. That, I consider, is a most unfortunate thing for this country. Road transport held out great hopes for the development of communications in areas where railways and other forms of transport cannot penetrate. But what is going to happen now? When are we going to have a policy? When are we going to have any enterprise? Then, what has been the history of our telephone systems? As you are aware, the telephone system in Calcutta has recently been nationalised. The result has been not an enormous increase in efficiency, but an enormous decrease in efficiency and an enormous increase in complaints. These are all administrative problems and they must be given most careful and most balanced consideration before any decision is taken.

Now, Sir, Diwan Chaman Lall, and the last speaker also, wisely pointed out that time is essential for active consideration and that there are various types of nationalisation, the respective merits of which must be fully weighed. Any mistake at this stage will be fatal not only to civil aviation but to a much more important thing, the building up of that reserve of fully qualified technical manpower which is essential to the even more important subject of India's defence.

For these reasons, we fully support the arguments put forward by Diwan Chaman Lall when moving his amendment that the problems should be fully investigated. In the meantime, we beg the House not to upset the rate of efficient development of civil aviation which is actually taking place. On this

note I would end. We are getting what we want, do not take it away from us! Sir, I support Diwan Chaman Lal's amendment.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs, Muhammadan Urban). Mr. Deputy President, if for no other reason than for the very good reason of the Calcutta telephones, I would certainly oppose the nationalisation of anything. But the problem goes a bit beyond the inefficiency of State management. Our country has so far been treated as a raw material producing country and our rulers have never taken care of our interests as the ruled. There has been a definite divergence and opposition between the two interests. Now, with the advent of the new Government and I hope with the advent of the new Constitution as and when it comes, we shall have to begin work from the very beginning, and for doing that I would ask the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution to realise that the State will need the assistance of the people, —call them capitalists, call them labour or call them what you like. Money and labour will be required and, therefore, the State may deal with the wider problems affecting our people leaving smaller affairs to private enterprise.

Sir, nationalisation creates a sense of fear in me. We have not yet arrived at any clear definition of the word "nation" in this country. Different people have different notions of "nationhood". If we follow the principles and institutions which have rendered valuable service elsewhere and try to transplant them into our country, they may not give fruitful results. Until, therefore, we have arrived at a clear definition of what the word 'nation' in India, as to what it means and how the rights and privileges of the many component parts of the people inhabiting this land are going to be safeguarded against possible dangers from huge majorities, "nationalisation" will have to be considered.

I P M rather carefully by the Honourable Mover and by me. Sir, I appreciate that if the Honourable Mover understands by nationalisation "Indianisation" of civil aviation, then I am entirely with him.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab, Sikh). I do not mean that.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: If he does not mean that, then he is taking us in to a direction which the Persian Poet has described as

Ein rah ke tu meravi ba Turkistan ast

(The road thou art walking upon leads to Turkistan—that is to destruction and death.) What I am trying to impress upon the Sardar Sahib is that instead of state ownership or state management, let us consider and think in terms of state control. Speaking as a Muslim, I should have supported this doctrinaire principle of nationalisation because I would have got my communal ratio of 25 per cent in state owned civil aviation. But I would like the Sardar Sahib and other Honourable Members in the House to realise that the worm called the Muslim is gradually but steadily turning. He is now paying attention to the economic aspect of life of the country. There are 16 aviation companies out of which 3 are Muslim. I hope they will increase. I feel that if nationalisation comes, we shall not be able to push Muslims into this field. If we do not stop here and the process goes on we shall remain where we have been kept, by the combination of British and Bombay and Calcutta capitalists, in the position of workers and the coolies. Let us have a chance of expanding our activities in this line and also in the general industrial and economic life of the country.

May I also draw your attention to the fact that air travel is a very expensive and exclusive type of travel? It will touch an infinitesimal number of our people. They will want everything that is best. I doubt, after what the Honourable Member representing the European Group in the House, has said whether this expensive travelling will be supplied by the State. Why not leave this small matter, perhaps one per cent of our people, in the hands of private enterprise, capitalists if you like, and certainly technical experts whom they can afford to employ for this highly specialised service. Sir, aviation is progressing and improving from day to day and governments as a rule are hide-bound. If measures of safety, speed and comfort for the travellers can be

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found, then let the matter go to private enterprise. May I also, Sir, suggest that till now these private companies have not demanded any subsidy? That shows that the Indian tax-payer is not likely to be called upon to pay any money for internal services. After the agreement signed three days ago with America, Government had better be asked to devote attention to external services. We shall allow Americans to come and land in our country but I should like to live and see an Indian plane landing at La Guardia aerodrome, in New York. The two aspects of the matter can go along together. The capitalists or the company and the Government can come to an arrangement by which the profits may be controlled but more than that, the State should control the comfort and safety of the travellers and improvement of aviation in the country from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. If the private companies would agree to reduce the fares many more would travel by air and, it may be possible that a higher percentage of profits may be available to them. I would ask the Honourable Member to agree to the suggestion that state control of the most rigid type be imposed and not to insist on state ownership and management. It is being done to-day by the Licensing Board over which sits a Judge of the High Court. If the percentage of profits is controlled and the amount is kept low, we shall be able to serve the interests of that very small number of citizens of India who wish to travel by air without injuring those of the vast majority by wasting public funds.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran Non-Muhammadan) I move

"That the question be now put."

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar (Member for Communication) Member's right of reply. The question is

"That the question be now put."

Mr. Deputy President: I accept the closure subject to the Government Member's right of reply. The question is

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar (Member for Communication) Sir, at the outset I apologise to Honourable Members of this House for being absent at the time of discussion on the last occasion of this important Resolution. But I am sure they will excuse me because my absence was unavoidable. I had gone to Bihar to do my little bit for the poor victims of Bihar tragedy. It is a thing which is now uppermost in the mind of everybody and therefore I am sure that they will not consider my absence due to my not attaching any importance to this Resolution. As I have already submitted, the Resolution is a very important one and it relates as the Honourable Member has put it to the nationalisation of civil aviation. I believe by civil aviation he means air transport, because certain aspects of civil aviation already are owned by the State. So far as the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal is concerned, I am gratified to note that it gives a breathing time to the Government so that they may be able to fully consider the pros and cons of this important question and then arrive at a conclusion. It is known to Honourable Members that the interim Government came into office just three months ago and I, as a Member of the Muslim League bloc assumed office less than three weeks ago. After assumption of office for three or four days I tried to understand the machinery that I was called upon to administer and to know the horse which I have to ride. Not only that, I found myself confronted with a very important question that is the Indo American agreement regarding civil aviation. Our negotiators were negotiating an agreement with the representatives of America, and in that connection I had to devote a lot of time for discussions with our own negotiators as well as the representatives of the other side. Meanwhile I had to go to Bengal and from there to Bihar. For one night I came but had again to go back to Bihar. When I came back again the same question was staring me in the face and I had to tackle it, and Honourable Members know that it was finished only day before yesterday when the agreement was concluded and signed. In these circumstances I think Honourable Members will appre-

cate that I had no opportunity whatever to fully consider the implications of this important Resolution; and therefore I am sure no Member of this House will expect me to make a declaration of policy, because policies that are declared without any consideration and very hastily are also forgotten very hastily. And if we are determined to carry out a policy the best and wisest course is that we should fully consider it before making a declaration. Any promises that are given cheaply are also broken very cheaply.

So far the policy of Government has been that which was announced perhaps in May last year, and it is to this effect.

"The policy of the Government of India is generally to promote the development and operation of air transport services, internal and external, by a limited number of sound and reliable private commercial organisations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial principles. In selected cases Government will take a financial interest, but not a controlling interest, in the companies operating their services and appoint a director on the board. This policy does not, however, rule out the operation by the State itself of any air transport service or services in particular cases, and such operation may be by the Central Government, a provincial Government or the Government of an Indian State."

In pursuance of this policy certain rules were framed and, as has been referred to by certain Honourable Members, a Licensing Board has been set up with an eminent judge of the Lahore High Court presiding over it and with experienced members, to consider the question of grant of licenses. Many applications have come to them, I will deal with them later on, but for the time being I must point out that so far as the question of control is concerned, in those rules some controls are provided. I am not in a position to say whether they are sufficiently effective but I believe they are fairly effective. *Inter alia* they provide for fixation of a per mile rate with a minimum and maximum, fixation of stoppages, approval of frequencies, approval of type of aircraft and equipment, financial stability of those who want to get licenses, and also approval of the personnel even if it is adequate, and even if these gentlemen have got licenses, unless they are up to the mark the Licensing Board will probably not grant licenses.

This is the position in which we find ourselves. But it appears—and it is quite natural in a poor country like India where an overwhelming majority is of the haves and only a few gentlemen have swollen pockets—that there is a cry for nationalisation of industries and not of civil aviation only,—nationalisation of all industries, particularly the bigger industries. The phrase "nationalisation of industries" is given different interpretation by different persons. Like the Chancellor's foot, its meaning differs from man to man. Some say nationalisation means this, some say nationalisation means that, and it was even said on the floor of this House this morning by Mr. Masani that there is great difference about the interpretation of the word between the compilers of dictionaries. But the fundamental principle, as it appears to a layman like myself, is this that people want that these industries should not be under the control of State and the profit from such concerns should not go into the pockets of private enterprisers. That is the spirit of the phrase.

Mr. Deputy President: It is now time for Lunch adjournment, but as I am told there is no other Resolution to be moved, I propose that we may sit a little longer and finish this so as not to come back after Lunch. The Honourable Member may proceed.

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar: I was giving my interpretation of the word 'nationalisation'. What I understood by the term is that the real object is to have control vested in a national organisation which is the State, and the object is that the profit that accrues from such concern should go to the public exchequer so that it may be utilised for the service of the poor. How to achieve it is a question which requires thorough examination. It is not very easy to suddenly take up these questions. Rome was not built in a day though nowadays it can be destroyed in a day. But we are here for construction and not for destruction. Therefore I submit that this House, composed as it is of very responsible and learned gentlemen, will support me in this view that Government should be given sufficient time to consider this question and to examine it.

[Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar]

In connection with nationalisation several suggestions have been put forward from time to time. One is that there should be State control, another party says there should be control plus financial participation, a third section says we must have control as well as controlling interest, a fourth class says that there should be completely State-owned services, yet another class says that for the time being we may allow internal civil aviation to be developed by private enterprise, and as we have no external aviation at present the Government may consider that so far as this part of civil aviation is concerned it should start as a State-owned service. Such and similar other points have been put forward from time to time for the consideration of Government. Then there are many other things which socialists like my Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh would like to be nationalised. The question is, what should be the time for a particular kind of industry to be nationalised and which industry should be given priority in this respect, because we are not to consider a thing bit by bit. We have to consider the whole field—and the socialists particularly should consider the whole field—and select and give priority to those things which have got greater implications and which apply to a greater number of people. Therefore so far as the question of priority is concerned, from that point of view also I think the Honourable Mover of the Resolution will concede to Government this much right that they should decide which particular industry should be nationalised first and which should be nationalised later on. If it is expected that everything is to be nationalised all at once then I must point out to him with all humbleness that so far as this Government is concerned, it is not so rich, it has not got such unlimited resources that it can take up the whole of the programme all at once. These are some of the difficulties that I want to point out for the consideration of the Honourable Member and it would appear after considering them even cursorily that the question is not so easy as some gentlemen think, and therefore I would submit that the Honourable the Mover will agree with me that it is not desirable at present to tie the hands of Government. In his speech the Honourable mover said that he did not want to embarrass the Government, and I am thankful to the Members of this House that they also said that they did not want to tie the hands of the Government and they did not want to embarrass the Government. Of course everybody was at liberty to put forward his suggestions for the guidance of the Government. If I have got a correct copy of what my Honourable friend, Mr Joshi, said on this question, namely that the House has got the right to make suggestions for the guidance of the Government, let me tell him that I concede that right to the House. Even if I do not concede, the House has got the right to guide the Government, and the Government will certainly give full consideration to whatever is said on the floor of the House.

I would not deal with some of the criticisms that have been made about State-managed affairs. Here this morning, the Honourable Member representing the European Group said "look at the fate of Calcutta telephones", look at the fate of this, and look at the fate of that—it deteriorated because of nationalization. So far as nationalization of Calcutta telephone is concerned, may be that it was not on account of nationalization that the telephone service is not working properly it may be due to war because it was nationalized during the war. Like other things it was probably the effect of war which did not sufficiently make the enterprise a success. I am not prepared to admit that because State got it, it deteriorated.

Sir, so far as the remarks of my Honourable friend, Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, are concerned about the word 'nation' and 'nationalization' I will tell him that everything is in the melting pot. Nobody knows that when the question of state-ownership comes up—I will avoid the word nationalization—it will be the state ownership of the Centre, or the state ownership of a province, or a group or any other unit. This nobody can say. But so far as the fundamental principle of nationalization is concerned, I for one—and here I am speaking on my own behalf—consider it to be an absolutely salutary one. And, Sir, I think there are very few people in India—I mean Indians—who will be opposed to this

principle, but as I pointed out the only question is the method, the manner and the time of achieving this objective

Sir, in view of all these things I appeal to my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, to kindly withdraw his Resolution and not insist upon its passage at this juncture. So far as the amendment of my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lal, is concerned, the views that I have expressed will clearly show that I am in general agreement with the substance of it, but there are certain words in this amendment which would embarrass the Government—on the question of time, and in some other manner also—and therefore I would request him also, since I have declared on behalf of the Government as a Member in charge of this Department that the Government is in general agreement with the substance of his amendment, not to press his amendment to vote

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) The amendment is innocuous

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar: If he reads it again I think my Honourable friend will find that if the object is to give sufficient time to the Government to consider it, then the amendment does create some difficulty

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: 'Early' is a matter of interpretation

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar: Yes, 'early' is a vague term, and it might be interpreted in different ways. Therefore, I would submit that as I have announced on behalf of Government that the Government agrees with the substance of the amendment, then why tie down the Government to a particular phraseology and press for it

Before closing my observations, I will make a few submissions regarding the points that were raised by various speakers on the last occasion. The Honourable Sardar Mangal Singh wanted to know how many applications have been submitted to the Licensing Board. I might inform him that 86 applications by 17 companies for 74 routes have been submitted

Another point about which he wanted an assurance from the Government was that if internal aviation is for the time being left to the private enterprise, then in that case the House will have an opportunity of discussion if there is any air crash. I would point out for his information that under the Rules certain duties have been cast on the Civil Aviation Department of the Government—the duties of inspection, of approval about the air worthiness of aircrafts, and all that—and in that connection I am sure the members will have an opportunity to discuss such points on the floor of the House

Seth Govind Das Sahib referred to Govan Brothers who were managing agents of one of the two big companies dealing with civil aviation. My information is that the interests of Govan Bros. now vest mostly in Indians, and some big financier of India has purchased their interests. So far as the Directors are concerned, all of them are Indians. Doctor Zia Uddin Sahib wanted information about control of rates and fares. I have already submitted that under the present rules the Licensing Board can control the rates and fares. Moreover there will be no question of monopoly of which he had some misapprehension

My brother from the Frontier Province, Khan Abdul Ghani Khan of course referred to the basic principle of nationalization and about that I have already made remarks

Rao Bahadur Siva Raj suggested that there should be some training of the pilots. For his information I may point out that the Government are subsidising flying clubs and very shortly a training centre will be opened. Opening of other training centres is also under consideration. So far as these Centres are concerned, they will train pilots, radio staff, aerodrome staff, and engineers

There is one small point in the speech of Honourable Diwan Chaman Lal. While he was supporting his amendment, he made a casual remark that in India there is no arrangement for manufacturing even a small part of an aeroplane.

[Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar].

With due respect I would submit that probably the information of the Honourable Member is not correct. There is the Hindustan Factory at Bangalore, two-third of the interest of which vest in the Government of India and one third in the Mysore Government. Over and above this two third interest the Government have invested some more money in it. Very material parts are manufactured in that factory.

There was one matter which probably the Honourable Mr. Siva Raj mentioned and that was about communal representation. One of the arguments that is advanced in support of nationalization is this that if it becomes a state-owned affair, then every community will get representation according to quota fixed for each. At present complaints are that some of the communities are taboo. I would only sound a note of warning to those who are dealing with civil aviation that they should take note of such complaints and should not give any cause for complaint to any particular community. At this stage this is all that I can say in this connection.

I am very thankful to the Honourable Members for their learned and informative speeches in connection with this resolution. Different points of view have been very ably expressed and I assure them that all the points that have been raised will be fully considered and when the Government has to form conclusion and the time is ripe enough for the formulation of policy, then all these points will surely prove as guiding factors in the formulation of such policies.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Sir, I have the right of reply.

Mr. Deputy President: That was when I put the question and the closure was accepted, not after the Government Member has spoken.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The question was not put. Nobody knows that the question was put.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member on the Government Benches has replied.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The question was not put. The Chief Whip shouted that the question be put and as no other speaker got up you did not put the question and under these circumstances I have a right of reply.

Mr. Deputy President: I have put the question. I was told by Honourable Members that there was no other Member getting up and therefore I need not divide the House. Otherwise I would have taken the votes. I said "The question is that the question be now put" and I looked towards the Honourable Member and he did not get up.

Diwan Chaman Lal (West Punjab Non-Muhammadian): On a point of order, Sir, if closure is carried the only person who has got a right of reply is the mover of the motion.

Mr. Deputy President: The Mover has got a right of reply. After the Mover has replied, then the Government Member has got the right of reply otherwise not.

Several Honourable Members: No, No.

Mr. Deputy President: The Standing Order says

"A member who has moved a motion may speak again by way of reply, and if the motion is moved by a non official member, the Member of the Government to whose department the matter relates may, with the permission of the President speak (whether he has previously spoken in the debate or not) after the mover has replied."

The words are "after the mover has replied".

Diwan Chaman Lal: Therefore the position is this if the mover of the Resolution desires to exercise his right of reply in spite of the fact that the Honourable Member has spoken, the Honourable Member will then be given, if you so desire, his right of reply again.

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar: Sir, I am not an expert of parliamentary procedure but if I have correctly understood it, the standing order which you have read out means this that the Member of Government has got a right to speak once before the closure motion is made and once after the closure motion is carried, in that case he can speak after the reply of the mover, if he wants to give a reply. When I got up after the closure motion the learned mover would have been perfectly within his rights to say that he has a right to reply. When I got up after the closure the Honourable Mover could have said that he wanted to exercise his right to speak and that I should speak later on. I have spoken now and though I do not grudge him that right if Mr. Deputy President accords him. Under the Standing Order he cannot speak. I am only giving my reading of this rule. It gives the last word to the Member of the Government after the closure motion.

Mr. Deputy President: I have given my ruling as the rule has been interpreted in this House on many occasions. As a matter of fact this happened in my own case in 1921 and I was debarred by Sir Frederick Whyte at that time and since then I have seen that the same ruling has been applied in this House. I am afraid the Honourable Member has lost his chance, which he had.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The closure motion was neither put nor carried. Ask the Reporter.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member knows perfectly well that the Chan did put the question "The question is that the question be put" and from all sides of the House nobody wanted to get up. I did not think it necessary to take the vote of the House but the question was put. Of course if the Honourable Member had got up then, under this rule he had the right to speak. On the present occasion the Honourable Member comes under this rule and I am afraid this cannot be allowed. If however the Honourable Member wants to withdraw his resolution, then I may permit him to do so.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I have not been given an opportunity to reply to the debate and I cannot say anything now.

Sri M. Ananthamaynam Ayyangar: There is no difference in this particular case, because the Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar is not a member of this House. He has no right to speak except that he has got the right to address this House. But he cannot exercise the right of a Member of the House. He can only address the House and the Honourable the Mover has the right of reply.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member probably did not listen to the wording of the Standing Order. The wording is not a member of the House but the wording is "member of the Government to whose department the matter relates". It is not necessary that the member should be a member of this House.

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar: Sir, with your permission, I would submit that if the Honourable the Mover feels inclined to withdraw his Resolution, then it will be in the interest of the House if you in exercise of your special powers give him the right to explain why he is withdrawing his Resolution.

Mr. Deputy President: That can be given, but not the right of reply. If the Honourable Member desires to withdraw the Resolution he can explain why he wants to withdraw.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Sir, I am at a disadvantage when I have to address a hungry House and I do not propose to detain Honourable Members longer here. In view of the remarks made by the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches that they have taken charge of the Government at a difficult time and that they have had no time to consider all these things, I do not want to hustle the Government into a position about which they have had no time to

[Sardar Mangal Singh]

consider But I would request them while they are considering this question to keep in view that certain lines should be operated by the State and certain lines may be given to private companies We will then be able to judge the results after sometime

Another point which I would like to urge is that in entering into contracts with the companies the contracts should be short ones, so that we may be able to review the policy if necessary

With these words I seek the permission of the House to withdraw my Resolution and if I may say so, I would like to accept the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal

(The Resolution was, by the leave of the Assembly withdrawn.)

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 16th November, 1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

MONDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 1946

Vol. VIII—No. 6

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 18th November, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair

MEMBERS SWORN:

Mr * Alfred Charles Turner, C S I, O I E, M. L. A (Government of India Nominated Official), and

Mr * Mohammad Abdul Aziz Ansari (Government of India Nominated Official)

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

AGREEMENT WITH U S A re OPERATION OF AMERICAN AIR SERVICES ACROSS INDIA

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Secretary of the Department of Communications kindly place on the table a copy of the agreement recently reached between India and the United States of America concerning the operations of American air services across India?

Sir Harold Shobert: A copy of the agreement is being placed in the Library of the House

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

[INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLIES TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS—LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE—TODAY]

Supplementary questions to Fendit Bader, Dutt Fendit's starred question No. 1300 of 12th April 1945

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

Accounts relating to the Monthly Grant of Rs. 12,000 paid by the Government to the Indian Federation of Labour for Labour Propaganda.

Month	Establishment	Travelling and conveyance	Printing charges	Meetings and demonstrations	Dissemination of news	Total
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
August, 1945	1,535 0 0	955 12 0	2,758 9 0	4,070 4 0	3,969 8 0	14,287 1 0
September, 1945	1,765 0 0	1,089 10 6	3,052 5 0	4,259 4 0	4,969 0 0	16,125 3 6
October, 1945	1,650 0 0	956 11 0	3,098 5 0	3,094 8 6	4,103 4 0	12,960 12 6
November, 1945	1,650 0 0	966 10 6	1,456 0 0	3,833 9 6	2,774 6 0	11,680 10 0
December, 1945	1,650 0 0	764 6 0	2,780 9 0	3,633 3 0	3,829 0 0	13,707 2 0

(A statement giving the details of accounts in respect of the period June 1944 to July 1946 has been included in the Legislative Assembly Debates for 19th March 1946, Vol. IV-No. 2, page 2656.)

Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No 268 of 14th February 1946

INCREASE IN CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY SEA

(b) According to information collected in February 1946 the ship building programme for 1946-47 in each of the Mercantile Marine Districts was as follows—

Karachi District—Nil

Bombay District—No information

Madras District—

Visagapatam—Two ships of 8,000 tons deadweight

Two ships of about 200 tons

Tuticorin—Six Schooners of between 100 to 150 tons

Malpe—Five country craft of 100 tons approximately

Calcutta District—Nil

(c) The following ships were under construction in February 1946 in each of the Mercantile Marine Department Districts—

Karachi—Nil

Bombay—Nil

Madras—

Tuticorin—Three Schooners of between 100 and 150 tons built respectively by S & G Machade, Michael Villavarayar and Gasper Series

Malpe—One country craft of 11.56 tons built by Kamala Maracali, c/o Karia Maracala
One country craft 14.02 tons built by Peggu Maracal, Boat owner, Malpe

Calcutta—Nil

(NOTE—The above figures do not include inland harbour craft or other vessels which do not go to sea)

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri's starred question No 408 of 20th February 1946

RE-ENTERING OF INHABITANTS IN BRITISH RESERVE, MANIPUR

(a), (b), (c) and (f). Though certain restrictions were formerly imposed, the present position is that indicated in the orders passed by the Governor of Assam on 14th August 1946, a copy of which is placed on the table

(d) Detailed information is not readily available. The local authorities have however, passed orders that the houses and other properties and any available money due on account of rent etc., should be made over to the former owners.

(e) Yes, and the Government of Burma have taken necessary action regarding the restoration of property to the right owners

ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

Shillong, the 14th August 1946

READ—Petitions of certain Indian merchants as in the enclosed list and from other persons for permission for return to the British Reserve in Manipur.

ORDER—His Excellency the Governor is pleased to order that—

(1) As there is no law excluding foreigners the petitioners and other Indian traders including those who never forfeited their right to the pottas held by them, should be allowed ingress into the British Reserve in Manipur

(2) Applications for new leases of lands they formerly held should be considered sympathetically by the Political Agent if the land is not required for other purposes.

(3) Such of the petitioners and other persons, already given permission to return to Imphal, as may be granted new leases should be liable to pay their land revenues and taxes in arrear, if any, for old ones, and this should be a condition precedent to the grant of a new lease

(4) Only one shop site should be settled with each trader with an additional site for a garage where necessary

(5) They should be allowed possession of their houses and other properties in the British Reserve in Manipur and, those who present such claims, be given any available

money due to them e.g., rent collected from the Military authorities or other tenants. But they should be left to claim for further redress if there are any parties whom they can sue and to file judicial applications in the Court of the Political Agent in Manipur.

(6) The above orders should take effect immediately

R W GODFREY,
Secretary to the Governor of Assam

Seth Sukhdev's starred question No. 615 of 28th February 1946

IMPORT OF SALT

(a) (i) Yes

(a) (ii) Yes

Mr Manu Subedar's starred question No. 991 of 14th March 1946

POSTS ABOVE RS 500 IN CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORATE

Statement showing posts carrying salaries above Rs 500 with their incumbents in the Civil Aviation Directorate at the time of cessation of hostilities with Germany (first week of May 45) Starred question No. 991, part (a), asked by Mr Manu Subedar on 14-3-46

There were 32 posts carrying scales of pay above Rs 500 p.m. in the Civil Aviation Directorate on the cessation of hostilities with Germany. The following statement shows the incumbents of the posts and their qualifications —

Serial No	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
1	Director of Civil Aviation in India.	Sir Frederick Tymms	Commissioned War Service 1915-1919 Commissioned in Royal Flying Corps 1917. Decorations— Military Cross Chevalier of the Order of the Crown, Belgian Croix de Guerre. 1918 British Aviation Mission to the United States of America. Training and Organising American Air Service in out observation. 1919 Instructor in Air Navigation at the Royal Air Force School of Navigation 1920-27 Technical Officer in the Civil Aviation Department of the Air Ministry 1924 Commanded the Air Section of the Oxford University Arctic Expedition to Spitzbergen. Member of the Air Survey Committee, Great Britain. Part author of "Flying for Air Survey Photography". Air Ministry Chief Examiner in Navigation for Pilots and Navigators Licences Part author of "Commercial Air Transport" 1927 Appointed Air Ministry Superintendent of the Egypt-India Air Service 1928 Seconded to the Government of the Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika to survey and organise air routes, including the Cape to Cairo air route, and to organise the administration of civil aviation.

Serial No	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and experience
			<p>1928 31 Chief Technical Assistant to the Director of Civil Aviation, Air Ministry</p> <p>1929 30 Air Ministry Representative on the Commission to Africa to survey, organise and negotiate the Cape to Cairo Air route. Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. Holder of 1st class Air Navigator's licence and Pilot's Licence. Author of a number of Scientific papers on navigation, Air Survey, Meteorology and other technical aviation subjects.</p> <p>11 35 Was conferred the title of C I E.</p> <p>23 2 31 Appointed Director of Civil Aviation in India.</p> <p>12 6 41 Knighthood.</p>
2	Deputy Director of Civil Aviation	Wing Commander L A Egglefield	<p>Passed with First class certificate from H M S CONWAY.</p> <p>1919 24 Was employed by the British India Steam Navigation Company rising to the rank of Second Officer and Navigation Officer.</p> <p>1924 29 Joined Royal Air Force as Pilot Officer retiring to reserve with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.</p> <p>July Oct 29 Instructor to the Bristol Flying Club. Employed by National Flying Services first on instructional work and later on commercial taxi work.</p> <p>1930 38 Employed by Imperial Airways Ltd. During this period he surveyed and operated and flew on several Empire Air routes e.g. trans India route, Alexandria Karachi Singapore, Southampton Durban and Southampton Singapore routes etc.</p> <p>20 7 39 Appointed Deputy Director of Civil Aviation in India.</p> <p>8th May 12th June 1939 Appointed to officiate as Director of Civil Aviation in India.</p> <p>Feb 42 On deputation with Air Forces where he rose to the rank of Wing Commander.</p> <p>April 45</p>
3	Officiating Administrative Officer	Mr P N Kapur	<p>Bachelor of Arts (B A)</p> <p>1919 40 Held non gazetted appointment under the Government of India.</p> <p>2 5 40 Promoted as Gazetted Superintendent in Civil Aviation Office.</p> <p>24-3-43 Appointed to officiate as Administrative Officer.</p>

Serial No.	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
4	Officiating Chief Inspector of Aircraft	Mr G M Randall	<p>British Pilot's 'B' licence British Ground Engineer's licence in categories A, B, C and D British Navigator's licence, Second class</p> <p>After serving apprenticeship was employed by Sopwith as Inspector aircraft until 1926</p> <p>1927 and During summer months was employed by Imperial Airways Ltd successively as Engine Fitter in Engine Shops, as flight Engineer and Station Engineer at Skopje and Salonica and as second pilot, flight Engineer and Inspector on four-engined aircraft</p> <p>1929-31</p> <p>1932 Was appointed Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Civil Aviation Directorate</p> <p>1935 Promoted as Aircraft Inspector</p> <p>1936 Officiated as Chief Inspector of Aircraft from February to November.</p> <p>1941-43 Government Aircraft Inspector, Hindustan Aircraft Ltd, Bangalore</p> <p>1943 Appointed to officiate as Chief Inspector of Aircraft</p>
	Scientific Assistant to Chief Inspector of Aircraft	Dr P Nilakantan	<p>B A, M Sc</p> <p>1935-37 Research Scholar in Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore</p> <p>1940 Doctor of Science in Physics, Madras University</p> <p>1937-41 Research Assistant in Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore</p> <p>1941-42 Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering, Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory, California</p> <p>1942-43 Research Engineer, Co-operative Wind Tunnel Project of the California Institute of Technology</p> <p>1943-44 Senior Aerodynamicist, Hughes Aircraft Corporation, California. Later in charge of the complete flutter and vibration Analysis of the Hughes Kaiser Cargo Airplane</p> <p>1944 Senior Lecturer in Aeronautics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore</p> <p>29-11-44 Appointed Scientific Assistant to Chief Inspector of Aircraft in Civil Aviation Directorate.</p>
4	Engineer Officer I	Mr. E H. Booth	<p>Indian Service of Engineers, A M. Inst C E.</p> <p>31-10-29 Joined the service as Assistant Executive Engineer, U. P.</p> <p>22-1-40 Appointed Engineer Officer I, Civil Aviation Directorate.</p>

Serial No.	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
7	Engineer Officer II	Mr F B Robey	<p>July '23 Qualified Assistant Engineer from Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee</p> <p>Nov '23 Joined the Central Provinces Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch</p> <p>Oct '43 Appointed as Under Secretary to the C P Government in P W D Secretariat, and Personal Assistant to the Chief Engineer, C P P W D.</p> <p>Jan '44 Appointed Engineer Officer II Civil Aviation Directorate.</p> <p>Nov '44 Appointed to officiate as Engineer Officer I</p>
	Assistant Engineer Officer	Mr A E G Moore	<p>B A, Punjab Services of Engineers (Class 30-3-41 Appointed Assistant Executive Engineer P W D</p> <p>24-3-42 Appointed Assistant Executive Engineer at Ra. el Hadd in the Civil Aviation Directorate</p> <p>15-4-43 Appointed Assistant Engineer Officer</p> <p>Nov, 44- Appointed to officiate as Engineer Officer II</p>
9	Officer on Special Duty.	Mr I: M Rosister	<p>Pilots 'A' Licence</p> <p>1915-17 P O and C P O, R N A S, Kite Balloons and air-hips Franch 1915-16</p> <p>1917-18 Sub Lieutenant R N V R Lieut R A F Airship Department, Admiralty Technical information duties</p> <p>1918-28 Civil Aviation Department, Air Ministry Information and press duties</p> <p>1928-36 Commercial Aviation</p> <p>23-4-36 Appointed Technical Officer (operations), Civil Aviation Directorate Officiated as Deputy Director of Civil Aviation for a few months in 1937 1938 and 1939</p> <p>Apr, 42- Officiated as Chief Aerodrome Officer</p> <p>Mar, 44- Officiated again as Deputy Director of Civil Aviation.</p> <p>Mar, 45- Appointed officer on Special Duty in connection with Civil Aviation Conferences</p>
10	Officer on Special Duty	Mr D Chakravarti.	<p>B. Sc (Calcutta and Glasgow) A F R A e. S.</p> <p>In 1927 granted a Scholarship by the Govt. of India for general training in Civil Aviation with a view to his appointment to the Civil Aviation Directorate His training comprised the following —</p> <p>Post graduate course at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, in "Advanced study in Aeronautics". <i>Ad initio</i> and advanced flying training in aircraft upto 400 A.P.</p>

Serial No.	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
			Practical training at various leading firms on maintenance, manufacture and inspection of aircraft in machine tool works Aerodrome operational procedure, Ceylon
21	31	Appointed Aerodrome Officer (Civil Aviation Directorate)	
July	40	Appointed to officiate as Chief Aerodrome Officer	
14	41	Appointed Aerodrome Officer, Grade I	
411	43	Appointed to officiate as Technical Officer (Operations)	
213	44	Appointed to officiate as Chief Aerodrome Officer	
14	45	Appointed to officiate as Officer on Special Duty	
11	Technical Officer (Post War Planning)	Mr K M Raha	<p>BA (Cantab) AFRAS</p> <p>In 1928 was granted a Scholarship by the Govt of India for general training in Civil Aviation with a view to his appointment to the Civil Aviation Directorate. The training comprised the following —</p> <p>(i) Post graduate course at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London in Advance Study in Aeronautics</p> <p>(ii) Advanced and advanced flying training in aircraft up to 400 H.P.</p> <p>(iii) Practical training at various leading firms in manufacture, maintenance and inspection of aircraft in machine tool work.</p> <p>(iv) Aerodrome Operational procedure (Croydon and Croydon (Airships))</p> <p>2231 Appointed Aerodrome Officer in Civil Aviation Directorate</p> <p>Sep Nov 32 Appointed Officer on Special Duty.</p> <p>May Sep 37 Appointed to officiate as Chief Aerodrome Officer</p> <p>June, 40 Appointed to officiate as Technical Officer (O)</p> <p>Mar, 41 Appointed as Aerodrome Officer, Grade I</p> <p>80342 Appointed to officiate as Technical Officer (Operations)</p> <p>41143 Appointed Officer on Special Duty (P.W.D.)</p> <p>74 to Appointed to officiate as Deputy Director of Civil Aviation</p> <p>80445</p>
12	Offg. Technical Officer (Operations)	Mr M G Pradhan	<p>B.E (Mech)</p> <p>In 1929 was granted a Scholarship by the Govt of India for general training in Civil Aviation with a view to his appointment to the Civil Aviation Directorate. The training comprised the following —</p> <p>Post graduate course at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London in "Advance Study in Aeronautics".</p>

Serial No.	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
			<p>Ab initio and advanced flying training in aircraft up to 400 H. P.</p> <p>Practical training at various leading firms in manufacture maintenance and inspection of aircraft in machine tool work.</p> <p>Aerodrome Operational procedure Croydon</p> <p>In 1931 was elected an Associate Member of the Institute of Aeronautical Engineers</p>
			20-1-32 Appointed Aerodrome Officer, Civil Aviation Directorate
			May-June 1933. Appointed Officer on Special Duty.
			1-4-41 Appointed Aerodrome Officer, Grade I
			Mar. 44 Appointed to officiate as Technical Officer (O)
13	Technical Officer (Air Services).	Mr. D. G. H. Lefevre	<p>1912 Bachelor of the German College, St Petersburg</p> <p>1913 Law student at the University of St Petersburg</p> <p>1916 Diploma of the School of Naval Cadets of the Russian Imperial Marine (1916)</p> <p>1917-18 Naval Pilots licences of the Russian and French Marines</p> <p>1921 Public Transport Pilot's Licence for Seaplanes (French)</p> <p>1922 First Class Navigator's licence (French).</p> <p>1921 Diploma of the High School of Aeronautical Engineering, Paris Aerodrome Officer's licence of the French D. C. A.</p> <p>1918-19 Naval Pilot of the Coastal Command of the Mediterranean at Toulon</p> <p>1921-23 Assistant to the Commander of the Civil Airport, Le Bourget</p> <p>1923-30 Station Superintendent of the Cie Internationale de Navigation Aerienne at Belgrade and later at Budapest</p> <p>1930-33 Agent of Air Orient and K. L. M. at Karachi.</p> <p>1934-35 Assistant to the Traffic Management, Air France, Paris.</p> <p>1935-40 Representative of Air France at Budapest, Vienna and Bucharest</p> <p>1940 Representative of Air France in India</p> <p>20-9-41 Appointed Asst. Technical Officer in the Civil Aviation Directorate. This post was subsequently designated as Technical Officer (A.S.).</p>
14	Technical Officer (Priorities).	Mr. P. R. Pinhorn	<p>Had long experience of air transport.</p> <p>Was special representative of Imperial Airways at Delhi and Chairman of Indian Trans-Continental Airways Ltd</p> <p>20-3-42 Appointed Asst. Technical Officer in the Civil Aviation Directorate. This post was subsequently designated as Technical Officer (P).</p>

Serial No	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
15	Technical (Licences) Officer	Mr Bhagat B Lal	<p>He was one of the first batch of Indians to receive training at the Delhi Flying Club soon after its formation</p> <p>25 7 29 Obtained his Pilots A licence</p> <p>27 1 31 Obtained his Pilots B Licence</p> <p>Jul 32 Was sent to England at Government expense for a short course of instruction in bird flying and in the duties of Pilot Instructor</p> <p>1 10 37 Got his Pilot Instructor Licence</p> <p>1931 32 Assistant Pilot Instructor at the Delhi Flying Club</p> <p>1 11 34 Chief Pilot Instructor at the Delhi Flying Club Ltd</p> <p>1942 Was awarded the title of M B F in the New Year Honour List</p> <p>7 12 42 Was appointed Technical Officer (L) in the Civil Aviation Directorate.</p>
16	Officiating Senior Superintendent	Mr Kidar Nath	<p>Bachelor of Arts</p> <p>1920 43 Held non gazetted appointment under Government of India</p> <p>1943 44 On deputation with Supply Department as Gazetted Superintendent</p> <p>11 3 44 Appointed to officiate as Gazetted Superintendent Civil Aviation Directorate</p>
17	Offg Chief Aerodrome Officer	Mr Gurdial Singh	<p>Diploma in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from MacLagan Engineering College, Lahore.</p> <p>4 3 44 Appointed Aerodrome Officer Civil Aviation Directorate</p> <p>29 3 42 Appointed to officiate at Aerodrome Officer, Grade I</p> <p>Oct 1944 to Jan 1945 Appointed Officer on Special Duty</p> <p>7 4 45 Appointed to officiate as Chief Aerodrome Officer</p>
18	Officer in Charge, Royal Airship Base	Capt U C N Finglas	<p>Was Stores and Accounts officer at the Royal Airship Base under the British Air Ministry.</p> <p>1 8 42 Appointed as Officer in Charge, Royal Airship Base with the temporary transfer of the Airship Base to the Civil Aviation Directorate</p>
19	Officiating Aerodrome Officer, Grade I	Mr G S Subramaniam	<p>Diploma in Mechanical Engineering of the College of Engineering, Gundy</p> <p>B E (Mech)</p> <p>In 1928 was granted a scholarship by the Government of India for general training in civil aviation with a view to appointment to the Civil Aviation Directorate The training comprised the following —</p> <p>Post graduate course at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, in "Advanced Study in Aeronautics"</p>

Serial No	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
			<p>As 1930 and advanced flying training in aircraft up to 400 H.P.</p> <p>Practical training at various leading firms in manufacture, maintenance and inspection of aircraft and in machine tool work.</p> <p>Aerodrome operational procedure Croydon.</p>
		21.31	Appointed Assistant Officer (temporary) Civil Aviation Directorate
		8.1.32	Appointed Assistant Air Line Officer
		1.3.34	Appointed Aerodrome Officer
		29.3.42	Appointed to officiate as Aerodrome Officer Grade I
20	Officiating Aerodrome Officer Grade I	Mr B N Gupta	<p>Pilot B Licence, R/T Licence and Ground Engineer's licence in Category C.</p> <p>Obtained the Associate diploma of the Royal Aeronautical Society Institute.</p> <p>1.7.36 Appointed Aerodrome officer in Civil Aviation Directorate.</p> <p>27.5.43 Appointed to officiate as Aerodrome Officer Grade I.</p>
21	Officiating Aerodrome Officer Grade I	Mr N C Sen	<p>M.Sc. Awarded Tata scholarship for specialising in aeronautics in Europe, carried on advanced studies and research in aeronautics in Munich University. Had practical training in the traffic technical and controlling departments at the Air Port of Munich and Berlin. Elected as Associate Fellow of R.Ae.S., London.</p> <p>15.7.35 Appointed Assistant Aerodrome Officer in Civil Aviation Directorate.</p> <p>Oct 36 to Jan 37 Appointed to officiate as Aerodrome Officer.</p> <p>1.4.40 Appointed Aerodrome Officer.</p> <p>15.11.43 Appointed to officiate as Aerodrome Officer, Grade I.</p> <p>Oct 44 to July 45 Appointed Officer on Special Duty.</p>
22	Officiating Aerodrome Officer Grade I	Mr G B Singh	<p>Pilot's B Licence.</p> <p>10.4.37 Appointed Asst Aerodrome Officer, Civil Aviation Directorate.</p> <p>12.11.43 Appointed to officiate as Aerodrome Officer, Grade II.</p> <p>17.10.44 to 2.4.45 and again from 7.4.45 } Appointed to officiate as Aerodrome Officer, Grade I.</p>
23	Aircraft Inspector	Mr F H Rowan	<p>British Ground Engineers License in categories 'A', 'B' all types and 'C' on air cooled engines.</p> <p>1914 Mechanic with Daily Mail Flying tours and A.V. Roe and Co.</p> <p>1914-21 Served R.A.F. and retired with rank of Captain (Technical).</p> <p>1922 Joined Blackburn Aeroplane Co as Aircraft Inspector.</p>

Serial No	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
			<p>1922 31 Westland Aircraft Co as Aircraft Inspector, Outdoor representative in charge of Civil Aircraft Department and Assistant to Works Manager</p> <p>1932 34 Worked with Imperial Airways Ltd, as Engineer in Charge at Kenya and Divisional Engineer, No 3 Division, Karachi Singapore Route Later worked with Gloster Aircraft Co Ltd Feltham as Asst Chief Inspector, with Aero Engines, Ltd, Britton, as Liaison Officer, and with General Aircraft Co, Ltd, on their "Fury" contract</p> <p>19 5 36 Appointed Asst Aircraft Inspector, Grade I in Civil Aviation Directorate</p> <p>19 5 37 Promoted as Aircraft Inspector</p>
24	Aircraft Inspector	Mr D M Langford	<p>Indian Ground Engineers Licence in categories A, B, C & D.</p> <p>Pilot's 'A' Licence</p> <p>1923 28 Served with Royal Air Force as mechanic</p> <p>1929-36 Chief Engineer, Karachi Aero Club</p> <p>1 8 36 Appointed Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade I, in Civil Aviation Directorate</p> <p>June 37- Assistant to Chief Inspector of Aircraft</p> <p>July 40</p> <p>Mar 40 Appointed to officiate as Aircraft Inspector</p> <p>May 40</p> <p>15 12 40 Confirmed as Aircraft Inspector.</p>
26	Officiating Aircraft Inspector	Mr K L Puri	<p>B Sc (Hons) (Lond), A C G I In 1939 was granted a Scholarship by the Government of India for training in England in Civil Aviation for four years with a view to his appointment to the Civil Aviation Directorate for inspection duties The training comprised (a) a course of study at De Havilland Technical School, Edgware, practical workshop training and attachment to the A I D at various stations</p> <p>Air Ministry 'A' and 'B' Pilot's licences and Ground Engineer's licences in categories A, B, C, D and X Associate Fellowship of the Institution of Aeronautical Engineers and Member of Institution of British Engineers</p> <p>Worked with J Store & Co, Engineers,, Deptford, London</p> <p>15 11 33 Was appointed as Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade II, in Civil Aviation Directorate.</p> <p>24 11-36 Promoted as Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade I</p> <p>Jan 42- Assistant to Chief Inspector of Aircraft at Headquarters</p> <p>Apr 43</p> <p>May 43- Superintendent of Training</p> <p>Apr 44 Mechanics Training Scheme.</p> <p>July 44 Officiating Aircraft Inspector</p>

Serial No	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
26	Officiating Aircraft Inspector	Mr E J Farle	<p>B Sc In 1939 was granted a scholarship by the Government of India for training in England in Civil Aviation for four years with a view to his appointment to the Civil Aviation Directorate for inspection duties. The training comprised a course of study at the De Havilland Technical School, Edgware practical workshop training and attachment to A I D at various stations.</p> <p>Pilot's A license and Ground Engineer's license</p> <p>A F R Ae S</p> <p>15.11.43 Appointed as Assistant Aircraft Inspector Grade II in Civil Aviation</p> <p>4.4.37 Promoted as Assistant Aircraft Inspector Grade I</p> <p>Jan 43 - Appointed to officiate as Aircraft Inspector</p> <p>Mar 43 Assistant to Chief Inspector of Aircraft at Headquarters</p> <p>May 43 Appointed to officiate as Aircraft Inspector</p> <p>30.7.44 Appointed to officiate as Aircraft Inspector</p>
27	Officiating Aircraft Inspector	Mr R N Kathju	<p>Ground Engineer's license in categories A B C D and X</p> <p>Associate Membership Examination of the R Ae S</p> <p>1925.31 Tata Iron & Steel Co Ltd Jamshedpur first as apprentice then as shift foreman</p> <p>1932.33 De Havilland Aircraft Co Edgware</p> <p>1933.35 Madras Air Taxi Service and Madras Flying Club as Ground Engineer</p> <p>1935.39 Chief Engineer with the Aeronautical Training Centre of India, Ltd</p> <p>2.7.39 Appointed as Assistant Aircraft Inspector Grade I in Civil Aviation Directorate</p> <p>Dec 43 Appointed Principal and Chief to APL Instructor, Mechanics Training Centre Juhu</p> <p>Jan 45 Officiating Aircraft Inspector</p>
28	Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade I	Mr M L Sodhi	<p>Ground Engineer's license in categories A B and C</p> <p>A R Ae S from 4.10.33 to 28.1.36 Granted Scholarship by the Government of India and trained in U K in Aeronautical Engineering Training included courses at Newton Heath Technical School and College of Technology, Manchester University</p> <p>Mar to Assistant Ground Engineer with May 33 Delhi Flying Club</p> <p>14.5.32 Ground Engineer with Kathiawar to Flying Club</p> <p>31.8.33 Assistant Instructor with the to Jan Aeronautical Training Centre of India Ltd</p> <p>1.4.37 Appointed Examiner, Civil Aviation Directorate</p> <p>1.4.40 Promoted as Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade II</p> <p>1.1.41 Promoted as Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade I</p>

Serial No	Designation of Post	Name of Officer	Qualifications and Experience
			Mar 42 Appointed additional Technical to Apl Officer (Mechanics)
			44
29	Assistant Aircraft Inspector Grade I	Mr J B Bayas	May 1944 Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade I B Sc Ground Engineer's licence in categories A, C and X 1935 Granted Scholarship by Government of India for training in inspection duties in India and in U K Training in U K comprised diploma course at the Aeronautical Engineering College Chelsea A F R A S course and attachment to A I O Air Ministry 11 4 39 Appointed as Assistant Aircraft Inspector Grade II in Civil Aviation Directorate 1 8 44 Promoted Assistant Aircraft Inspector Grade I
30	Officiating Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade I	Mr J Sen	B Sc Pilot's A licence Second Class wireless operator's licence in 1938 granted Scholarship by Government of India for training in England in the manufacture, repair and maintenance of wireless apparatus 23 12 39 Appointed Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade II in Civil Aviation Directorate 1 8 44 Appointed to officiate as Assistant Aircraft Inspector Grade I
31	Officiating Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade I	Mr M H Paranjpye	B Sc Pilot's A and B licence In 1935 granted scholarship by Government of India for training in England Training in U K comprised diploma course at the college of Aeronautical Engineering Chelsea and A F R A S course 5 4 39 Appointed as Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade II in Civil Aviation Directorate 1 8 44 Appointed to officiate as Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade I
32	Officiating Assistant Aircraft Inspector, Grade I	Mr S O Motra	Indian Ground Engineer's licence in categories A, B, C, D and X Associate of the Royal Aeronautical Society Passed Motor car Engineering from City and Guilds Institute, London Pilot's 'A' licence British Air Ministry Ground Engineer's licence in categories A, B, C and D Automobile Engineer with Automobile Corporation, Calcutta Assistant to Chief Ground Engineer Bengal Flying Club Ground Engineer Inspector with Phillips and Powes Aircraft Ltd at Reading Final Aircraft Inspector at Sir W G Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft Ltd, Coventry and Hamble Final Inspector at De Havilland Experimental Depot at Hatfield Part time Chief Inspector with Chrysler Aircraft Ltd Chief Ground Engineering Indian Air Survey and Transport Ltd and the Bengal flying Club Chief Engineer Aero Club of Ceylon 23 4 42 Appointed as Assistant Aircraft Inspector Grade I in Civil Aviation Directorate

Shri D P Karmarkar's starred question No 1009 of 15th March, 1946

CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM ACROSS THE LAXMANATIETHA RIVER

(b) Yes, the Government of Mysore have raised objections to the Project This is being examined by Government

Supplementary question to Prof N G. Ranga's starred question No. 1113 of 20th March, 1946

ENQUIRY INTO THE NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN COTTAGE AND INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS

List of some of the more important indigenous and small scale Industries in which enquiries have been made by the Labour Investigation Committee appointed in pursuance of the Labour Department resolution No L 4012, dated the 12th February, 1944

- (1) Carpet weaving
- (2) Coir matting
- (3) Potteries
- (4) Bidi making
- (5) Mica Splitting
- (6) Glass Bangle making

The reports of the Committee contain information regarding the numbers employed in these industries and the social conditions therein No information as to the number of individual concerns in which less than 20 workers are employed by cottage or factory employees on the number of workers employed in such concerns is available

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon's supplementary question to Mr Ahmed E H. Jaffer's starred question No 1465 of 2nd April 1946

CLOTH QUOTA FOR HAND DYERS AND HAND PRINTERS OF AJMER-MERWARA

The consumption of cloth by the handprinters and dyers of Ajmer Merwara is estimated at 40 to 50 bales per month

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee's starred question No 1523 of 3rd April, 1946

RICE SITUATION IN NOAKHALI DISTRICT

A report was called for from the Bengal Government in April last and they informed us that answers to parts (a) and (b) of the question were in the negative As regards (c) and (d) modified rationing has been introduced in the district Under this scheme the available supplies of foodgrains are distributed to the people on the basis of priority determined by their economic condition

Mr Tamisuddin Khan's starred question No 1780 of 15th April 1946

TAX ON TOBACCO

• (a) and (b) Two statements are laid on the table of the House It is presumed that the Honourable Member desired to have figures for 1945-46

Central Excise revenue realised under tobacco in different Provinces in British India during 1945-46

Provinces	Actual yield (Lakhs of Rupees)
Assam	0.87
Baluchistan	2
Bengal	3.79
Bihar	3.15
Bombay	2.08
Central Provinces	1.10
India General	7
Madras	5.69
North-West Frontier	21
Orissa	11
Punjab	86
Sind	19
United Provinces	2.95

Excise revenue realised under tobacco in each district in Bengal Province, 1945

Nam of district	Revenue realised Rs. 000
Rangpur	41.46
Jalpaiguri	14.53
Darjeeling	1
Rajshahi	76
Dinajpur	83
Malda	3.06
Bogra	4
Patna	30
Calcutta	2,03.58
Howrah	1.94
Hooghly	42
Burdwan	5.81
Bishnupur	60
Bankura	1.79
Midnapur	1
Murshidabad	5.06
Nadia	71
Khulna	3
Baerghang	5
Jessor	28
Faridpur	13
24 Parganas	93.02
Dacca	62
Mymensingh	92
Chittagong	53
Noakhali	18
Tipperra	1.57

Seth Govind Das's starred question No 128 of 31st October 1946

COMPARATIVE PRICES OF LAC WHEAT AND RICE IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

(a) The price of Teora in C P is controlled by export ceiling which are lower than procurement ceiling fixed for coarse rice and wheat.

(b), (c) and (d) The present prices of rice and wheat are considered to be reasonable. There is no evidence that the acreage of Teora has been increasing at the expense of wheat.

Shri Sri Prakasa's starred question No 327 of 8th November, 1946

INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES ASSESSED TO INCOME-TAX ON INCOMES OVER ONE CRORE OF RUPEES DURING 1945-46

(a) During the financial year 1945-46 there were 30 persons with assessable incomes of Rs 1 crore or more but excess profits tax having been allowed as a deduction only 11 of them were assessed to income-tax on incomes of Rs 1 crore or more.

(b) All these 11 persons were companies.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT— LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member). Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following *Notifications in accordance with section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944

- 1 No 3-Camp, dated the 9th February, 1946
- 2 No 8 dated the 6th April, 1946
- 3 No 6, dated the 20th July, 1946
- 4 No 1-Camp, dated the 2nd February, 1946
- 5 No 2-Camp, dated the 9th February, 1946
- 6 No 1, dated the 9th March, 1946
- 7 No 2, dated the 30th March, 1946.
- 8 No 3, dated the 1st April, 1946.
- 9 No 4, dated the 20th April, 1946
- 10 No 5, dated the 14th September, 1946
- 11, No 6, dated the 14th September, 1946
- 12, No 7, dated the 14th September, 1946.
- 13 No 8, dated the 14th September, 1946
- 14 No 9, dated the 19th October, 1946

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting) Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill for the more effective prevention of bribery and corruption

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill for the more effective prevention of bribery and corruption"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I introduce the Bill

INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member): Sir, I move

"That Mr Mohammad Abdul Aziz Ansari be added to the Select Committee on the bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, (Second Amendment) and that Mr J F. Ormiston be appointed to that Committee in place of Mr C P Lawson"

further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, (Second Amendment) and that Mr J F.

Mr. President: The question is

"That Mr Mohammad Abdul Aziz Ansari be added to the Select Committee on the bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, (Second Amendment) and that Mr J F. Ormiston be appointed to that Committee in place of Mr C. P. Lawson"

The motion was adopted

BANKING COMPANIES BILL

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I move:

"That Mr C P Lawson and Mr E L C Gwilt be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies in place of Mr G W Tyson and Mr M A F Hirtzel"

Mr. President: The question is

"That Mr C P Lawson and Mr E L C Gwilt be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies in place of Mr. G. W. Tyson and Mr M A F. Hirtzel."

The motion was adopted

*Printed as Appendix to these debates

INDIAN NAVY (DISCIPLINE) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. G. S. Bhalja, (Secretary, Defence Department) Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act, 1934, be taken into consideration"

Sir, this is a simple Bill and I hope it will prove non-controversial. Its object is to amend Section 90 of the Naval Discipline Act, which forms the First Schedule to the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act, 1934. This section was found deficient in several respects and therefore during the war Section 90 was amended by clause (d) of sub-section (5) of section 6 of the Defence of India Act which expired on the 30th September 1946. The amendment has been continued in force for another six months by section 2(1)(m) of the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1946. This Bill is intended to replace the Ordinance.

I said that Section 90 of the Naval Discipline Act was deficient in several respects. That section reads

"With respect to vessels in His Majesty's service in time of war, whether belonging to His Majesty or not, which are not wholly manned by naval ratings, but being either armed or under the command of an officer in His Majesty's naval service, the following provisions shall take effect if in any case the Governor General in Council thinks fit so to direct, and where such direction is given the same shall be specified in the ship's articles

(1) Every person borne on the books of any such vessel shall be subject to the Act,

(6) The Officer Commanding the Indian Navy and senior naval officer in His Majesty's service shall have the same powers over the officers and crew of every such vessel as they have for the time being over the officers and crew of any of His Majesty's ships."

Sir, the Act as it stands at present applies only in time of war but an emergency may arise before the outbreak of hostilities when officers and men of merchant ships other than naval ships may have to be taken up by Government for naval purposes, and yet such personnel would not come under the Naval Discipline Act. It is therefore necessary to remove the words "in time of war" from the present section.

Secondly, as it stands at present, the section refers to the ships companies, crews and officers of the merchant vessels which are taken up by government, and applies to them, as ship's companies, the Naval Discipline Act. It frequently happens that men serving in one of the vessels have to be transferred to another vessel or sent ashore for training purposes or to a hospital. It has been held that strictly speaking in such cases the Naval Discipline Act will not apply to those men. This is obviously an unsatisfactory position. So long as these men are in the service of government, they must remain subject to the Naval Discipline Act. This difficulty will be overcome by the Bill, which will apply to all men who enter into an agreement to serve government.

Thirdly, difficulties have arisen as to the exact status of men when they transfer from their former occupation to the naval service. In their former occupation, they may have been officers, chief petty officers, petty officers or ratings, and it was not clear what exactly the position was when they came under the Naval Discipline Act. The difficulty will be overcome by the proposed amendment which gives power to the Central Government to direct by order to declare the persons in question as officers or chief petty officers or petty officers or ratings as the case may be.

It should be noted that the Bill proceeds entirely on the voluntary principle, and no man can come under its operation unless he voluntarily enters into an agreement with the Central Government to serve His Majesty. There is nothing in this Bill which can possibly be said to savour of compulsion. This is made clear by the opening sentence of the proposed section 2 which reads as follows

"If—(and I am emphasising the word 'if')—any person who would not otherwise be subject to this Act enters into an engagement with the Central Government to serve His Majesty, etc., etc., and agrees to become subject to this Act upon entering into the engagement, that person shall be subject to the Naval Discipline Act."

I hope that this brief explanation will convince the House that there is no element of compulsion whatsoever in this Bill, and I hope also that the House will feel that there is nothing controversial in it.

The necessity for the enactment is obvious. I have said that there were certain deficiencies to be removed. I must emphasise that the first and foremost duty of the Defence Department is to keep plans ready for the defence of the country, and therefore I hope there will be no hesitation on the part of this House to pass this Bill, which I again emphasise proceeds on a voluntary basis, and which is really not controversial.

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I have two amendments to this Bill, and I would seek your advice in this matter, whether you would like me to move both these amendments at the same time, or whether you will allow the one for circulation to be moved first. I would like the Bill to be circulated for the reasons which I shall be stating just now.

Mr. President: It is a matter for the Honourable Member's choice. I do not see how she can move both at one time. She can move any amendment she likes.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I say this, that if the first amendment fails, the necessity for moving the second amendment cannot disappear?

Mr. President: That is a different thing from saying that both may be moved, one after the other, at the same time.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I think my honourable friend, Miss Maniben Kara, wanted to know whether you will permit her, if the first amendment fails, to move the second amendment. That is really her point.

Mr. President: That will be decided when the point arises, not now.

Miss Maniben Kara: I beg to move.

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st March, 1947."

Mr. President: I might just inform the Honourable Member that in case the first amendment fails and she chooses to move the second amendment, there will not be a repetition of the same debate again.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Let the debate not be repeated, but she may be allowed to move.

Mr. President: Yes.

Miss Maniben Kara: I listened very carefully and attentively to the Honourable Member who moved this Bill, and I do not intend at this stage either to go into the merits or demerits of the Bill. Looking at the aims and objects of this Bill, this measure has been provided only for the case of emergency. This Bill, as you will see, affects the lives of more than 2,00,000 seamen and officers, and I am not convinced that there is any such hurry for passing this Bill, which will very vitally affect the lives of the Indian seamen, and the Indian officers. At this stage I do not intend to go into the merits of the question but I would once again insist that in this country where we have got big organisations of seamen and the organisation of officers, it is but natural that those people would like to know before any permanent measure goes on the statute book.

The Honourable Member has tried to show that by bringing in this Bill, the conditions of the seamen will not be vitally affected. I would just like to point out that after all the merchant seamen and the marine officers who are

[Miss Maniben Kara] working with private shipping companies have also their obligations, because the Act of 1923, section 30(e) says

"The agreement may be made for a voyage of the ship or, if the voyages of the ship average less than six months in duration, may be made to extend over two or more voyages, and agreements so made are in this Act referred to as running agreements."

This means that the merchant navy personnel has to enter into some sort of agreement with the private company and when these people are all of a sudden coming under the navy discipline, I am not saying about the details as to what might happen to them, but certainly this is a method which is of vital necessity to the Indian seamen and the Indian officers. I happen to be connected with the maritime union of India and I happened to discuss this Bill with some of my friends who happen to be in Delhi, and from their information I could gather that they very strongly feel that this Bill is of a nature requiring some time for thinking. I would appeal to the Honourable Member also and point out that in his statement of objects and reasons he has said that the ordinance has already been extended for another six months. This Ordinance would have expired in September but it has already been extended for a further period of six months, and if that is so, I would appeal to this Honourable House to accept my suggestion for circulation, so that it will give time to maritime unions and the Indian Seamen's Union to consider this Bill, which is going to be of a permanent nature. Sir, I would also draw the attention of Honourable Members to this fact that during this war not only in this country but in other countries also the merchant navy services were taken over by the Government without the loss of any of their privileges. Those ships were chartered by Government which allowed the Indian seamen to have all the facilities and the freedom they had while serving the company. Even though they were essential services, their right to form trade unions were not taken away. The wages of the Indian seamen were anyway much higher than the naval ratings and were not reduced. I am not suggesting what might happen even under this Bill but the provisions are so important that they must be taken into account and the constituents must be given a chance to give their opinion.

I would further point out that the seamen of this country can be regarded as the most advanced part of the working classes from the point of view of political consciousness, because they have got a chance of coming into contact with so many other nations and the seamen of other countries and whether they are going to express their opinions for or against this Bill we do not know. This is not the time to consider the merits and demerits of the question. The points which I have raised may be satisfied by the Honourable Member. I do not know about it. But I have not had a discussion on this subject with many trade union people, with my seamen and my officers, and therefore I would appeal to the Honourable Member not to be in a hurry. The ordinance is already there. It has been extended for a further period of six months and this motion can be taken up in the next budget session and I would therefore request the Honourable Member even to postpone the consideration of this question. This would give time to the various organisations to read this Bill. For all I know they may not have much to say about it. There may be no amendments but I cannot understand why there should be such a hurry, especially as the Bill is going to vitally affect the lives of more than two million seamen and about 900 officers. In the last war even without this Bill the Indian merchant navy rendered all possible help. They have done very well in the last war. I am not prepared to give up all those rights and privileges which were given to them. Even in the Trade Disputes Bill Mr Griffiths did not discuss the merits and demerits of the measure. He took up the point that such a comprehensive Bill should be circulated and his constituents must be given time. In view of the fact that an Ordinance is already there, I would appeal to the Honourable Member not to be in a hurry.

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st March, 1947"

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr. President. I rise to support this motion. The Honourable Member in charge of the Bill did not tell us what the urgency was for passing this measure during this short session. He had introduced the Bill only recently. We have hardly had time to study it and we are asked to pass it within this short period. Ordinarily when a Bill is introduced in a short session of this kind, Government naturally give time to the public, which is affected. The public affected by this Bill are ignorant seamen. I am not talking of the officers. They are educated. They may read newspapers. The seamen affected do not know about the existence of this Bill in this legislature. Not only that. The seamen are not like land workers. They are most of the time on the sea and naturally they must be given longer time. Many of them may not be in India at present. They may be outside on the sea. They may be near or they may be at a distance and when you pass a measure affecting the lives of seamen you must give them much longer time than the time which is ordinarily given to land workers. If a measure of this kind is to be passed in a hurry, the Honourable Member must make out a very strong case. So far as I could follow him he has not said a single word about the urgency of this measure. This is a measure which takes away the civic rights of certain citizens. If a man who is working on a merchant navy goes to a State navy, he loses many of his civic rights. He becomes a part of the army. The army discipline Act applies to him and therefore this is not an ordinary kind of measure and naturally the people affected must be given a chance to express their views. I therefore feel that the representative of the Government of India has failed in his duty to the House, in that, he did not make out a case for urgency. I would ask the Honourable Member not to treat this House in this manner. They should show consideration to this House. After reading this Bill in the light of the original Act, I must say that I do not follow the whole implications of this Bill. This Bill is an amendment to the original Act which provides for the application of the Naval Discipline Act to the Indian Navy. The Statement of Objects and Reasons to this Bill states. This Bill is intended to amend section 90 of the Naval Discipline Act as set forth in the First Schedule to the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act, 1934. Then, Sir, within the short time at my disposal, I secured a copy of this Act of 1934 and I looked at the Schedule. In the Schedule I have found that this naval discipline measure not only includes this Act of 1934 but along with it there are some British laws. The Schedule mentions I, George IV and I, William IV etc. I could not myself follow them and I tried to secure a copy of them but unfortunately I could not get them. Now, if you ask me to vote on a Bill which amends an Act and which also includes two British pieces of legislation, I must know what those British pieces of legislation are. I do not know whether the Honourable Member has got copies of these Acts. If he has, I would like him to read them for the benefit and instruction of this House. If he has not got them, what right has he to ask us to pass this Bill, which amends an Act which includes some sections of British legislation of which he does not possess a copy.

Sir, time at the disposal of members for study is limited and we can only spend an hour or two for that purpose. I could not get hold of that British law. My fear is that some of these sections affect the wages of those seamen, who are transferred from private service into Government armed forces. They also affect their civic rights, such as, the rights of being members of the trade union. There is no mention in this Bill regarding the rights of remaining members of a trade union. We do not know from the Bill itself whether these rights continue. The Honourable Member may give me an assurance that they continue, but how am I to know that this will be so? I have no time to study all that is mentioned here.

Similarly, about their wages. They are getting at present, I have no doubt in my mind, much larger wages in the mercantile navy than the wages paid

[Mr N M Joshi]

in the Government naval service. Now, we do not know what is to happen to their wages. The Honourable Member has not said anything whether they can get the same wages or not. He mentioned one point which is of some importance, namely, that the man enters into agreement voluntarily. I do not say that this is not important. But what is exactly the meaning of that voluntary contract? I do not know it myself. My Honourable friend Miss Maniben Kara has stated that these seamen have long contracts with their employers, sometimes of six months duration, and the contract has to be renewed sometime up to 18 months or two years. We want to study the implication of this. The man has entered into contract with the owner of the ship. As an emergency, they take charge of the ship. I would like to know whether these men who have a contract with the owner of that ship are free as soon as the ship is taken by Government. So far as my knowledge goes when a ship is taken by the Government in an emergency the men naturally go along with that ship and they have hardly any choice at that time to leave the ship on account of the old contract which these men had with the owner of the ship. The Honourable Member said something about the transfer and he said that there are difficulties in the way of transfer. What he implies is that there is no difficulty in compelling the men to go into the Government service on the ship on which they have been serving, but if the Government wants to transfer them to another ship, then only difficulty arises. But why should a man enter into Government naval service who had made a contract with his employers only to serve as a mercantile naval man? Therefore all these things must require consideration, and the House must not allow the Government to pass this Bill unless the Government shows the emergency. The Honourable Member said that the Act as it is only gives them power during the war, I agree that it is necessary that the Government may possess extraordinary powers during the war. But the war has ended and even then the Honourable Member wants to possess not temporary but permanent powers. The Honourable Member has made it quite clear in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that he possesses those powers till the end of March. He has extended those powers by Ordinance. What is going to happen between now and January 15th or 20th when the next session of the Legislature will meet? Does he expect another war between now and the 20th January? If he does not expect a war, what is the urgency for passing this legislation because he possesses all those powers till the end of March? Has he got no time to pass this legislation as soon as the Legislature meets on January 20th? Between the 20th of January and the end of March there is enough time to pass this legislation. I, therefore, suggest to the House that they should not support this method of passing legislation. That is to say, to pass it in a hurry especially when it affects adversely the civic rights of the citizens of this country. I hope the advisers of the Honourable Member will give him the advice not to insist upon the passing of this measure in this session because it is a wrong thing to do. If he does not take this advice and does not follow the wise precept of not hurrying a measure of this kind, the House should not give him the permission to consider this Bill at this stage.

Sir, I have not said much about the merits of the Bill because I frankly confess that in spite of my efforts to study the Bill, I could not follow the whole Bill thoroughly. Therefore, I thought it was wrong on my part to speak on the merits of this Bill.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor, Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, my Honourable friend evidently has not been able to trace out that portion of the Act which this amending Bill seeks to amend. The Schedule which is referred to consists of the whole Naval Discipline Act passed by the Parliament in the United Kingdom. That has been made a Schedule. The Indian Naval Discipline Act of 1934 consists of only three sections and sets out the entire Naval Discipline Act of the United Kingdom as a Schedule to that Act. It has now been printed and is in the Library of the House. I have got a copy of Indian Navy Discipline Act of

1954 The Schedule to that Act is the very Act, the Naval Discipline Act passed by the United Kingdom. There was no difficulty in having it and I have got it here.

As regards the serious nature of the Bill itself, I would tell my Honourable friend that I wanted to make it a little more strict but having regard to his objection and the objections of my Honourable friend M^{rs} Maniben Kara I thought it might be left as it is. It seems to be to be absolutely innocuous. I should like to tell him what it means. In times of war it is open to the Government of this country to commandeer any of the merchant ships. When they do so, all the merchant ships and the entire company become part and parcel of the Indian Navy and become subject to the Indian Naval Discipline Act. In times like these, nobody can predict when the war will actually break out, but even before the war breaks out, the country has to make the necessary preparation. Therefore, to be on the safe side, they have brought in this Bill to allow the Government to commandeer any particular merchant ship for the purpose of war. All that is set out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. This Act will be brought into existence and used as and when hostilities break out. They cannot wait till hostilities actually break out and then bring before the Assembly a Bill asking for those powers.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is the hurry now?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Even if one year is given, you are not going to improve the Bill, possibly on taking further advice you might make the provisions stricter and harsher. The Bill as it is at present is quite innocuous. There are two kinds of contracts which the seamen have to enter into. By the first agreement they enter into service with the merchant navy and from there they are transferred to the navy and *ipso facto* they come under the jurisdiction of the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act. Now they enter into another agreement with the navy people. They agree to subject themselves to the Indian Naval Discipline Act. It is not as if they are taken on to the navy, they are directly recruited to the forces without any further agreement. By the mere fact of his appointment to the Navy, he is subject to the Naval Discipline Act. As I said, his first contract is with the merchant vessel. Another opportunity is given to him when he enters the navy to find out whether he will be governed by the ordinary merchant seaman's Act or by the Naval Discipline Act. Therefore there are two opportunities for him. It is open to him to change the service and at the same time not commit himself to the Naval Discipline Act. He may or he may not be bound. This morning I read the clause twice simply to find out whether the provisions about the naval discipline should be there or not. It is well known to the House that at time of war or necessity merchant ships are taken over by the State as naval units. When once the merchant ships are taken over, then all the staff employed in the merchant ships automatically come over to the navy and they are subject to the Naval Discipline Act. If this provision is not enforced, then it may be that the seamen might join the enemy. The Naval Discipline Act constitutes a court of martial law. The seaman may refuse to hoist the flag, he may not object the orders of the officer commanding, or he may communicate with the enemy and march over to the enemy. These are the difficulties. When once the question is decided that the seaman must be transferred to the naval forces and should become one of the naval officers, then to that extent he must be brought under the Navy discipline. Far from tightening the grip, these provisions are dangerously in favour of seamen for whom both my Honourable friends are contending. Even if they get a thousand eyes and keep their eyes wide open, no mistake can be found against this provision that the seamen should come under the Naval Discipline Act. If they are anxious that this clause should be removed, then let the seamen continue under private owners of merchant vessels. But if they want to continue to serve in merchant ships after they are taken over by the navy, they must choose between two alternatives, continue in service and come under the Naval Discipline Act or leave the service. If they choose to continue in service even after the

[Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

merchant ships are taken over by the navy, then they automatically come under the navy discipline. Otherwise, if they are given liberty to be aloof from Naval Discipline, then it is not in the interest of the country, it is not to the safety of India. The seamen ought to be thankful for this provision in this Act, because by putting in this clause, the seamen are given another opportunity to think over and decide whether they would transfer their allegiance to the naval forces and come under the naval discipline or not. I cannot see any good coming by circulating this Bill all round the country and I would suggest to my Honourable friend not to press the motion for circulation.

As regards the question of urgency, I would only point out to my Honourable friend Mr Joshi that he must know this better. He is constantly attending International conference as delegate for India. He is aware of the ferment all over the world. Even in the last Paris conference, they have not come to any decision about terms of peace. Nobody seems to be anxious about restoring peace to the world. Every country is arming itself to the teeth. Why should India alone lag behind? We have already suffered for over 150 years by the British rule. Hostilities may begin at any time and the path of prudence dictates that we should be ready for any emergency. Too much care and caution is not bad. I therefore request my Honourable friend to allow this innocuous Bill to go through the House and not to press either the circulation motion or the motion for reference of the Bill to the Select Committee. The seamen are given ample opportunities in the shape of two contracts to think over whether they would change over to naval discipline or whether they would remain under the merchant ships.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House) Sir, when I saw this Bill for the first time, it seemed to me completely innocuous and non-controversial. When I see it again, it still seems to be completely non-controversial and to be a simple measure which can hardly lead to much argument. One point was raised which was casually mentioned here. The point was that if seamen are taken over by the navy, they would have to leave their Unions. Now, Sir, that was an important point. I referred this point to the mover of this motion and he assured me that they would not be obliged to leave their Unions as seamen. Naturally as temporary Members of the Navy, they would not function in the Navy in regard to naval matters in that way, but they would continue as Members of their Unions. So, one of the difficulties that I had, was removed, and I saw no further difficulty. Nor do I see that normally speaking a very simple measure of this kind should be circulated all over the country. I would ask the House and my Honourable friend who proposed this amendment to consider this matter and not carry it further. Nevertheless, I feel that in such matters, Government should not just press its way and get any Bill through, if there is no harm done by a slight adjournment or postponement thereof. I would therefore suggest to my Honourable friend the mover of the Bill that he might accept the amendment for the appointment of a Select Committee provided that Select Committee reports before the next session of the Legislature.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: So far as I am concerned, I shall be satisfied with a Select Committee and the report should be submitted before the next session.

Miss Maniben Kara: I shall be satisfied if the matter goes to the Select Committee.

I beg leave to withdraw my amendment for circulation.

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Miss Maniben Kara: As regards the Motion regarding the Select Committee, I have not yet obtained the consent of Members for including their names in the Select Committee.

Mr. President: This matter may be postponed for the time being. When we reassemble after lunch, this motion may be taken up and in the meanwhile the consent of the Members may be obtained.

REQUISITIONED LAND (CONTINUANCE OF POWERS) BILL

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Secretary, Defence Department) Sir, in regard to the motion standing in my name relating to the Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land, the Select Committee has made important changes in the Bill and Government wish to have time to appreciate the full implications of these changes. Therefore I do not propose to make any further motion in this session.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, what happens to the old lands we are already having? Those must be handed back immediately. Will the landlords wait until such time as the Bill sees the light of day?

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Sir, if Government want permission to withdraw the motion on the agenda I have something to say on this.

Mr. President: There is no question of any motion being before the House. It is only included in the agenda and is not being moved.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I want to know whether in the interval when they acquire land they will give effect to the equitable principle which the Select Committee has urged in the Bill and they will not proceed to use their other powers of acquisition at the six-year-old value for the farmers whose land they have taken.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, I think a discussion is not permissible when a motion is not moved, but if you wish.

Mr. President: I do not propose to have a discussion on this point. The position is clear—the *status quo* remains whatever it is.

INDIAN TEA CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member) Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938, be taken into consideration."

This Bill is a very simple one. Under the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938, the Central Government is required to issue a notification each year specifying the total quantity of tea which can be exported from India during the financial year. This is done under section 13 of the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938. As soon as this quantity is specified it is distributed by the Indian Tea Licensing Committee, a body constituted for the purpose under the Indian Tea Control Act, among the registered tea estates in proportion to their crop basis, and thereafter a tea estate which has been allocated an export quota becomes eligible to obtain in lieu and to the extent of its export quota, an export licence from the Tea Licensing Committee, to cover the export of tea. Under this Act there are two kinds of licences which are given, one is known as the ordinary export licence, and the other is known as the special export licence. The ordinary export licence is given for the purpose of exporting tea during the financial year in which it is due. But if for any reason any tea estate which is given an export licence, for example, for the year 1946-47, is unable to export its full quota during that financial year, the same estate is allowed under the Act before the 14th April following (i.e., 14th April, 1947), to apply for a special export licence. Now the period of the validity of the special export licence under the old Act of 1938, was two months only, that is, it would expire normally by the end of May, 1947. But during the war it was felt that there were certain difficulties in the way of the tea estates utilising their special export licences within the short period of two months, and therefore in 1943 the Indian Tea Control Act of 1938 was amended and the period of two months was extended to 12 months, with the result that an export licence which was obtained in one financial year could be used throughout the period of the next financial year as a special export licence.

[Mr I I Chundrigar]

There were certain other difficulties also, as in 1942-43, we were allowed to export 25 per cent more tea than our usual quota, and export licences for this extra quantity of 25 per cent which came to 58 million pounds were also issued. Now if all these licences are allowed to be used in the next financial year, there will be several complications. The idea underlying the Bill now is to revert to the position which existed before 1943 before the amending Bill was passed, and we now want to revert to the provisions of the old Act under which a special export license would be valid only for two months in the next financial year.

This is the simple provision of the Bill and I hope this House will accept this Bill, as we are now restoring the *status quo* which existed before the special legislation for the exigencies of the war period was passed by this House.

Sir, I move

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Control Act 1938, be taken into consideration"

The motion was adopted

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

Clause 1 was added to the Bill

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill

The Honourable Mr I. I. Chundrigar: Sir I move

"That the Bill be passed"

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That the Bill be passed"

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I should like to know what the difficulties were, if any, which the tea exporter suffered from, if the period were limited to 1st May of each succeeding year and why it is necessary to relax it, also if there were any complaints during that period at all and they were sought to be rectified during the period of the war

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The only complaints received were what I told the House. If the ordinary export licence was issued in the year 1946-47, export was to be made before the end of the financial year 1946-47, i.e., up to the 31st March 1947. During the war some of the persons holding export quotas made a complaint that they had not the necessary shipping facilities and therefore they would not be able to ship their full quota during that period. Their only remedy under the old Act was to apply for a special export licence for the unexhausted portion of their export quota. It was given to them as a matter of course. Supposing they had an export quota of one hundred thousand pounds of tea and they had exported 80 thousand pounds, they would necessarily be given a special export licence for the remaining 20 thousand pounds, and that was valid under the old Act up to 31st May following. During the war, they complained that they would not be able to export it by the 31st May; and Government therefore thought that during the war period when the shipping facilities were not available and there were other difficulties in the way, that period can be extended up to the 31st March following, and that was done by the Act of 1943. Now we think that this facility is no longer necessary. On the contrary, if this facility is allowed all the present export licences will have to be automatically validated up to the end of March 1948, and that will work to the detriment of the owners of the Indian tea estates because with so many licences remaining unexhausted, they will be able to export at any time and the prices will remain low. Therefore it is in the interest of the tea-growing portions of India to revert now to the pre-war legislation, and that is what the Bill proposes to do.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I should like to know whether the further period of two months after the financial year is enough in the ordinary course to export all the surplus

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Yes, it is.

Mr. Mann Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Sir, do I understand that it is not Government's intention by this means to have additional restrictions on the export of tea? Because, then the tea grower will not really benefit as the Honourable Member said I assume that is not the intention but that the intention of Government is merely to regularise the procedure so that in due course all licences issued for a certain period should be completed and executed during that particular period. Is that the intention or is the intention a restriction generally on the volume of export?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The intention is very plain. Normally about 420 million lbs is exported. For this export licences will be given. If any of this quantity is not exported by the 31st of March, 12 Noon special export licences will be given for the unutilised balances, which will be valid up to the 31st of May 1947. If it is not exported by then, they will apply for the normal export licence for the year 1947-48 and the normal trade channels will function as before the war.

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

REGISTRATION OF TRANSFERRED COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member) Sir I beg to move

That the Bill to amend the Registration of Transferred Companies Ordinance 1942 be taken into consideration."

I would like to explain this Bill in brief. The registration of Transferred Companies Ordinance, 1942, was promulgated with a view to permitting companies from different parts of the Empire which had to leave their countries of origin owing to the war conditions, to function effectively by transfer to India. Under the provisions of that Ordinance some companies, which had registered themselves at various places in the Empire where they could not function during the war period because of certain difficulties created by the war either owing to the overrunning of the country by the enemy or various other reasons, were given the privilege of registering themselves in India and carrying on their activities from here. Many of these companies want to revert to the countries of their original incorporation. Now if they so revert with the registration in India, they have got certain difficulties in their way, as a company registered in India now seeking re-registration in the country of their origin. The intention underlying the Bill is to remove those difficulties in the way of these companies. With this purpose in view, the Bill proposes that their registration in India may be cancelled and they may be allowed to re-register themselves in their countries of origin as if they had not been registered in British India at all.

In doing so, one question has to be borne in mind. These companies which were registered in India during the war may have got certain liabilities to the people of this country or even to other people, and Government proposes to see that all their commitments and liabilities to the people in India and others will be fully satisfied before their registration in India is cancelled. That is why we propose that the cancellation of this registration will be subject to such terms and conditions as the Government may prescribe, and the Government proposes to use the powers under section 2 (a) to impose such terms and conditions as may be specified in the order, for the purpose of seeing that all equitable adjustments are made and all the rights of the people of this country are safeguarded before action is taken under this Act for the purpose of cancelling the registration of any company. I hope that will satisfy the members of the House that the interests of the people of this country will be properly safeguarded before an order is passed under the provisions of this Bill.

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That the Bill to amend the Registration of Transient Companies Ordinance, 1942, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) I have no objection to the motion. In fact it is a very necessary and proper thing which Government are doing. May I make a small suggestion to Government? There would be many liabilities of these companies which have been active, and some of them have made very large sums of money in this country during the period they operated here. There will be liabilities for income-tax. There are not only the obligations of these companies to the people of this country which the Honourable Member has said they would secure, but I would suggest that there is the obligation of these companies "to Government in respect of income-tax. Income-tax is taken in the following year on income of the current year and by the following year they may not be here. I trust Government will safeguard their own interest with regard to income-tax also.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Most certainly they will do

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural): Has the Government any information as to what has been the extent of operation of these companies in India and whether they have taken additional shares in this country? Why not special courts be appointed for winding up these companies so far as India is concerned? There may have been an emergency during the period of the war and that is why an Ordinance was promulgated, but there is no urgency now. If the Honourable Member wants still to continue the Ordinance, it should not be placed before this House so that what was an Ordinance originally may not be given effect to by an Act of this Legislature by providing corresponding provisions in that Act so as to empower the Government, or any other authority which the Government may set up, to allow a company to get itself transferred from this country or to cease its operation in this country. I believe, Sir, that instead of the Central Government itself, through one of its officers, taking the responsibility of finding out the liabilities of a particular company, which has worked in this country for nearly four years, before it is allowed to wind up its business and go away bag and baggage, they should appoint special tribunals to go into the various liabilities which it may have incurred during its operation in this country. If the companies registered under the Indian Companies Act want to cease operation, they have to get themselves wound up by application to the High Court. I would not suggest the same procedure in the case of these companies, but I would suggest that special tribunals be appointed to find out the liabilities of these companies, and after they are satisfied they should without any prejudice allow these companies to remove themselves from this country. I would urge upon the Honourable Member to see whether that ought not to be done and also to consider what haste and urgency there is. I find from the Order Paper, Sir, that this appears as item 13 and 14, and therefore I was not prepared with the relevant facts as regards the number of such companies, the nature of business they have been transacting and to what extent they have ramifications in this country, their obligations and liabilities, and how much the nationals of this country will be affected if they are allowed to go away from this country, and so on. And there is another difficulty which my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar points out: whether the foreign successors of these companies will be liable to pay the liabilities—income-tax and other liabilities which may come to light? These are all matters which have to be gone into. I would urge upon the Honourable Member to put away items 13 and 14 which may not have reached in this session. It is not a matter of urgency: there is no more war and if we facilitated their coming, let us not provide facilities for them to go without safeguarding the interests of everybody concerned. Sir, I apprehend greater danger in allowing this measure to go through at this stage.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It has been suggested, that special tribunals may be appointed to wind up these companies and the question how far the people of this country will be affected is the second point to be considered.

As I said in my opening speech, we are taking every possible precaution for the purpose of safeguarding the rights not only of the people of this country, but the Government and everybody concerned. Now, I do not understand how things will improve by allowing the winding up proceedings being taken up before a court of law. The idea underlying this measure is that each company, before it is allowed to cancel its registration in India, will have to submit its balance sheet, a statement of its assets and its liabilities including those to Government for taxation, and after all these things are gone into and a satisfactory solution is found, then alone Government will pass an order for cancellation. Their registration in India was not made under the normal procedure of registration under the Indian Companies Act. That was done by a special Ordinance called the Registration of Transferred Companies Ordinance, 1942, and the cancellation of their registration would normally have been made under an Ordinance. But as the House was sitting, we insisted that the matter should come before it, so that the House may have an opportunity of seeing that the rights of the people of this country are fully safeguarded.

My friend may be aware that if a Company is registered in one country and then transfers its registration to another country, it is under some disabilities. The only thing underlying the present Bill is to see that these companies are not subjected to such disabilities. I may also point out to my friend, Mr. Ayyangar, that the earlier these companies wind up from India and go back to their country, it will be better for the people of this country. When their registration is cancelled, we want to see that they do not carry on their trading activities from India. But before doing so, the interests of our countrymen will be fully safeguarded. That is the idea underlying the Bill and I believe thorough provision has been made in the Bill to safeguard their interests. The terms of the proposed section, are extremely wide to place full powers in the hands of the Government. The said section reads thus:

"The Central Government may at any time by order cancel the registration of any company under this Ordinance on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the order."

So there are no limitations on the powers of the Government for the purpose of specifying the said terms and conditions, and each case will be considered on its merits and before an order is passed, I can assure the Honourable Member that all the points raised in the House and every question relating to the interests of the people of our country and the Government, will be fully considered before the order of cancellation is passed.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the Bill to amend the Registration of Transferred Companies Ordinance, 1942, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MOTION *RE* PAYMENT TO UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member). Sir, I beg to move—

"That this Assembly do approve the payment to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration of the sum of rupees two crores for which a supplementary demand in respect of 'Miscellaneous' was voted by the Assembly on the 18th April 1946."

In this connection I will give a short resume of the previous history of the case. UNRRA was established in 1943 for the purpose of organising relief and

[Mr. I. I. Chundrigar.]

rehabilitation measures in the interests of the inhabitants of war afflicted areas. The agreement which brought UNRRA into existence was signed by the Government of India's representative subject to the reservation that it must be approved by the Indian Legislature. In April 1944, the agreement was formally approved by both the Houses, and it became operative in respect of India. Thereafter, the Council of the UNRRA passed a resolution recommending that each member Government, whose home territory was not occupied by the enemy shall make a contribution for participation in the work of the Administration, approximately equivalent to one per cent of the national income of the country for the year ending 30th June 1943 as determined by the Member Government. There was also a proviso to the effect that "the Council recognises that there are cases in which the recommendation above may conflict with particular demands arising from the continuance of war or may be excessively burdensome because of peculiar situations, and therefore recognises that the amount and character of the contributions recommended is subject to such conditions."

If we had decided to contribute one per cent of the income of India for the year ending June 30, 1943, our contribution would have come to nearly Rs 40 crores. But under the proviso, namely, that the payment of this amount would be excessively burdensome to India because of the peculiar situations, we decided to make a contribution of Rs. 8 crores and that was passed with the consent of the Indian Legislature during the budget session of 1945. I may mention that thereafter UNRRA made various purchases in India, the total of which comes to about Rs 7,28.26 lakhs and so far as the balance is concerned they have spent something on administration expenses and the unspent balance is in the neighbourhood of Rs 21 lakhs. Thereafter a motion was made in the budget session in April 1946, for voting a supplementary grant of Rs 4 crores for making a second contribution to UNRRA and ultimately by consent of parties a motion in the following form was passed

"That a reduced supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees two crores be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 in respect of "Miscellaneous."

It was however subject to a statement made by the Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar in this House, and it is because of that statement that I have placed this motion before the House so that the Members may have an opportunity of expressing their views on the different points. The statement which was made by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar runs thus

"I suggest that the House may agree that a sum of rupees two crores may be granted, if circumstances permit and the Government on their part will watch the situation and make no expenditure out of the amount till the end of September, when we would have known what the position of the country is. If that is agreeable to all parts of the House, it can go out as the unanimous resolution that the House sympathises with UNRRA's request, and is prepared to expend up to two crores but that the Government should not expend any portion of this amount till the end of September when the position of the country will be better realised."

After the statement was made by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and Mr. Griffiths agreed with the suggestion made and then the grant was passed unanimously.

After this, the UNRRA has made a further list of articles which they required from India and I have discussed the question with their representative here. During the discussions it appeared that nearly 60 per cent of their requirements are in raw jute and jute manufactures and 40 per cent of their requirements are in other articles like coir yarn, synthetic rubber, some drugs and surgical goods from the Disposals Department. I also made enquiries as to what was the amount which has been paid by the other countries, so far as the second contribution was concerned. I may mention that our first contribution of rupees eight crores which in dollars was 24,042,078 (out of 1,878,267,285 dollars) came to about 1.27 per cent of the total first contribution. Our second

contribution of rupees two crores will be 33 per cent. of the total second contribution received by the UNRRA from the various other countries. I may mention that the first contribution and that was the point which was raised by Mr. Manu Subedar in the last debate, 81 non-invaded countries and about 16 invaded countries made their contributions. So far as the second contribution is concerned, eleven countries have already made their contributions and our contribution, if made will come, as I said, to 33 per cent. of the second contribution.

As to the merits of the proposal I may mention that the UNRRA has been a very important international organisation. It has made various contributions for the rehabilitation of the invaded European countries. They have shipped nearly one million tons of seeds, plants, fertilisers, farm machinery and other things to the various European countries and also to China and as a result of the assistance given by the UNRRA these European countries and China will now be able to produce more food for themselves, so that the food situation all over the world will improve and India's chances of obtaining her food requirements from abroad will certainly be far better than they would otherwise have been but for the rehabilitation of these countries.

I may also mention that recently, the UNRRA has allowed 25,000 tons of wheat out of their own procurements to be diverted to India.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) From where?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar From the various European countries and a report about this appeared in the *Hindustan Times* also a few days ago. I have got a cutting of that report.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is that borne out by the records of the Department?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Department has received a letter from the UNRRA representative in India saying that they have received information from his headquarters that these 25,000 tons of wheat are being diverted to India. I was mentioning something more than what was said by the UNRRA headquarters themselves.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Will the Honourable Member make clear as to what is meant by 'diversion'? It is merely that something is given to us in advance from something given to us a little later. Diversion does not mean any kind of benefit conferred but repayment has to be made.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Certainly, Sir. These 25,000 tons are being given as a loan to India for our immediate needs which we will have to repay when conditions improve. Honourable Members will recognise that the immediate procurement of food is one of the essential matters.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member, but is he aware that the UNRRA has been competing with India in the matter of procurement of food and making it more difficult for India to procure her requirements of food?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: This is raising an old controversy, to which the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar gave, I believe, a reply in the last debate. It was as a result of the explanation given by him that the House ultimately adopted this grant unanimously to the extent of two crores and the only position which was then left open for consideration was with respect to the situation in the country. The only reference to the food situation in the country that was made in the debate then was "the internal position of the country will be realised by the end of September" till which time no amount out of this sum should be expended. If India is to play her part in the international field, if India has already made such a large contribution as eight crores as her first contribution and has practically held out the hope of a second contribution of two crores subject to the examination of the internal situation in the country by the end of September. I feel that the House must consider going ahead with this programme, especially as it would not be spent in the purchase of articles which are essential to us but which are surplus and which can be exported by us.

[Mr I I Chundrigar.]

I may mention also that we have in addition received very small gifts from the UNRRA. Of course their amount is not large. They are parcels of canned food of the value of three lakhs. Then from their emergency food collections we have got a cash contribution of about Rs 10 lakhs. The value of gifts from New Zealand of Malted Milk, whole milk powder and other food amounts to Rs 15 lakhs. The point which has to be kept before us for prominent consideration is, whether looking to the status which we hope to occupy in the international world, we should not under the circumstances fail to fulfil the hopes which were held out at the time of our previous contribution and whether we would be well advised in dropping this assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of the various countries which were overrun by the enemy. Now, in our various statements we said that India will not live in isolation so far as the international sphere is concerned. We are putting up our candidate for the security council of the United Nations Organisation, and we look forward to play a very important part in the international world. Under these circumstances it is also our duty to go to the relief of other nations when they are in very bad need of relief and rehabilitation. We can imagine what would have been our own position if during the food crisis the other countries of the world no doubt for payment, had not come to our assistance and given us certain food supplies. If we looked to the other countries of the world to come to our rescue in times of need, when famine was staring us in the face, we should also under those circumstances look to the needs of other countries which require relief and rehabilitation, and that is why I said that this is a stage when we may confirm our former Resolution and approve the payment which was then promised, and most of which would be spent on raw jute and jute bags, our vurn and surgical and other instruments and other things from the Disposals Directorate. The original programme was that so far as the European countries were concerned, the UNRRA would give relief up to the end of December 1946, and so far as the far eastern countries are concerned the relief would be given to the end of March 1947. Since then certain shipping difficulties have come in the way, and it appears that only 69 per cent of the programme of 1946 has been carried out till the 31st August 1946. It is possible that the commitments made before will be fulfilled even after the dates specified, and I trust that the House will accept the motion which I have placed before them for their consideration. Sir, I move

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That this Assembly do approve the payment to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration of the sum of rupees two crores for which a supplementary demand in respect of 'Miscellaneous' was voted by the Assembly on the 18th April, 1946."

Mr. Mann Subedar: Sir, the Honourable Mr Chundrigar comes from my city of Bombay, and though I knew his reputation as a great advocate, I never had the opportunity of listening to him as I did today, he has indeed made the best of what is a very bad case, and undoubtedly this UNRRA case is very bad. In this House I had, on all previous occasions, to question and challenge the position of India with regard to these international organisations, and more specifically with regard to UNRRA, and I shall not on the last day of the session take up too much of the time of the House, otherwise I could go thoroughly into each item that the Honourable Member mentioned.

The position is different now. We are faced with a government including my Honourable friend Mr Chundrigar, in which we have absolute confidence. We would seek to guide them where it is necessary, but we are equally willing to concede to them and be guided by them where it is inevitable. Therefore there is no doubt that the motion will be carried, and we shall pass it, but may I correct a few current ideas?

It has been most melancholy whenever an Indian member on the treasury benches has got up in the past to talk about this particular subject, he has given an entirely false picture of India in the international field, which was not

there. We are hoping to get there now, with the vigorous activity of this government, but at that time it was not there. We were tied to the chariot wheels of the United Kingdom; the whole of this UNRRA matter was a charitable institution set up by the United States of America to which they invited others to contribute. It was for the relief of war-ravaged countries of Europe and such relief was given in such a way that even members of United Nations who have seen the activities of UNRRA questioned and challenged at all places and in all countries, so much so, that the United Kingdom has washed its hands of this institution now and flatly refused to have anything to do with it, so much so that the institution has been already liquidated—I do not know who is going to spend the money and who is going to receive and do those activities, because I understand that this institution does not exist any longer. The House will remember that the United States has recently refused to divert any wheat to the UNRRA, on the plea that the institution no longer exists, and that its activities cannot be continued after it has been closed and liquidated. We do not know what the position is. I dare say there are some representatives of UNRRA—may be the remnant of the left-overs of the organisation, and I really think we ought to consider twice before we give any money, if by any fortunate chance it has not already been spent. The question was raised by me prominently last time and Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar's assurances were not satisfactory. I challenged him to show that the UNRRA did not compete with us. First of all the treasury benches were trying to carry on the illusion that the UNRRA would be able to help India, even Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar tried to mislead this House that the UNRRA was in a position to help, until I showed by chapter and verse that India was not eligible for help from UNRRA and that before the Food Board and before the world food distribution and the combined markets of the United States and Argentine and elsewhere, where India went for food, this institution was competing with us. It was raising prices against us and it was taking away shipping which was due and intended for India. Charity must begin at home. No less a sum than ten crores has been given by this poor country for the relief and rehabilitation of western white populations who were war-ravaged. We are sorry for them, we can show sympathy for them, but sympathy in this form ought not to go out, while charity is deserved at home. May I ask this same UNRRA which has sent fertilisers to China, which has sent seeds and other equipment and so on—why has it not done so to India? The House is aware that for fertilisers this country has spent no less than three crores importing fertilisers at heavy cost, in order to rehabilitate our land which has during the war period worn out. The Honourable Member talked about one per cent of India's income. Who made the commitment that India was to give one per cent of her national income for the relief of other people? The previous government's minions who were hand-picked by the previous government who misrepresented the position of this country elsewhere, who indulged in propaganda hostile to this country—it is a commitment made by those people, and they committed this country, I am told that 40 crores of rupees would have gone. I asked the other day whether the present government regard themselves as heirs or successors or assigns of the previous government, but their predecessors certainly claim that instead of 40 crores they have only given eight crores—only eight crores! Do people realise in this country what eight crores means to this poor country? Have they got any conception? It was a madness which came over the treasury benches whose printing presses added an unlimited supply of money at all times, so that they felt that they could throw their money about. The United Kingdom delegation to which our men were subordinate in those days, were trying, at India's expense, to show off to the world the might of the British Empire. India is big when India has to contribute but India is small when India is to receive something. My Honourable friend mentioned the percentages but would he examine the percentages of the reparations which this country got? Would he examine what India got in the matter of the shipping we expected from Germany as reparations? No. We got nothing. Even the ships which were given to this country, the Government's predecessors felt obliged to refuse.

[Shri Manu Subbaraj]

They said—we don't want these ships. When it comes to receiving something, we get nothing but when it comes to contribution, our people seem to be simply devoid of financial responsibility and obligation and we seem to be throwing our money away.

May I not enquire whether India is not the most war-torn country in the world? Has not this country undergone severe famines, severe floods and an endless series of strikes including the strikes of public servants and is not the country now in the grip of a state of lawlessness which involves financial liability on the Provincial Governments and the Central Government which I predict will run into hundred crores, with the result that there will be no money left for our own plans and programmes of development? In such a situation we are told that the UNRRA is anxious to take away some of the jute from this country, the jute which offers the very best means of buying anything we want from the world. It was just which did the success of the mission of my Honourable friend Dwan Chaman Lal in the Argentine and saved the situation. The UNRRA wants this jute by way of charity and we have to give it away. What do we get in return? We are told that we shall be regarded as something in the international world. Sir, I put it to the House whether this is not too big a price to pay for the kind of recognition which we are seeking and whether this is the best means by which India can do it?

The same benevolent institution called the UNRRA is offering to take away things from the Disposals Department. On the Disposals Committee I have specifically asked the Director General of Disposals not to send out any surgical goods and instruments from this country, because there is an overwhelming unsatisfied demand for these things and instruments. The Provincial Governments have got their health programmes. The Bhoré Report has recommended the expansion of hospitals and this equipment is already in this country and this country has a primary and unassailable claim on these things and not the UNRRA, which claims that it is doing some good to some countries somewhere in the world.

We are told that the isolation of India ought to be avoided. I agree. I want this country to send out goodwill missions. I want diplomatic and consular representatives all over the world and our best men ought to go and acquaint other countries as to what is there in India and learn from others what is outside India so that knowledge and mutual esteem might grow so far as India is concerned.

I do not object to India's participation in the UNO. Let me say with what distinction India's case is being put there and how that arch-Churchillian General Smuts is being routed. We are not isolationist in that sense. My conscience is biting me more on the financial ground. This country is too poor for crores to be spent in charity. During the dire famine days when our men were running anxiously about the world to get some additional supply of food, ten crores of India's money was allowed to go into smoke over this UNRRA and may I ask whether India has got any corresponding or comparable benefit? May I ask whether we have evoked any response from the rest of the countries, any response from the more powerful rich countries like the U.S.A. and even from those continental countries whom the UNRRA helped at our expense? May I know whether anything that we need here has been sent out by them particularly to relieve the famine? Did they say at least—we thank you and we are sending you at least a token help? No. Sir, that is not the case. The fact is that the UNRRA is a ramp and a racket set up by the U.S.A. and England for their own purposes in order to win popularity in Europe and when they found that the popularity can no longer be got in this way they have liquidated it. We were drawn into it unintelligently. Our money was spent in it without any return and I say that that is not the proper way to try to gain recognition in the international field.

The controlling point in my mind is whether this House should go back on what it has committed itself to in a moment of error. If my Government thought it fit to bring forward a motion of this kind, I take it that it is their

opinion that having once committed ourselves we cannot now go back on our promise. The House will remember that my friend Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang and others said that India has a tradition of kindness, generosity and charity, that her people had feelings of humanity and that the cry of distress anywhere in the world rouses a response and an echo. These were the sentiments of this House when these monies were given. I do agree reluctantly that if the money has been promised we should not now go back but if there is any technical flaw, if by their own error this organisation has been liquidated and there is nobody to receive and properly administer these funds, if there is any loophole, I trust that Government will look into it and I trust that in any case the Government will not part with the goods which are necessary to this country.

* As the House is aware, 2,40,000 bales of cotton which this Government purchased in order to keep up the price of cotton and help the Indian cultivator were given away scot-free to this UNRRA and this, at a time when there is a fearful outcry from the villages that there is not adequate clothing for the farmers' women. Let us have some sense of proportion and let charity begin at home. If I invite the attention of Government to the suffering and distress in this country I am not doing anything wrong. Let us trust that the Government will look closer into this matter, do what is fair and proper, even what is generous and that while trying to carry out our promise, they will save whatever they can out of this racket.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs, Muhammadan Urban). Sir, being a Muslim and the Honourable the Commerce Member is also of my fraternity, we are *par excellence* internationalists. I should, however like to have a sense of proportion brought into this post-war outlook on international affairs by the Honourable Member for Commerce and the present Interim Government of India. I should like the House to look at this problem from an angle which is different from the one the Honourable Member from Bombay has presented to the Government. Having been pushed into a war which was not of our making and having taken part in devastation here, there and everywhere, gentlemanliness, kindness, generosity and a sense of shame also, should force us to go and help the devastated regions and countries as far as we can. But if we look at this problem from a point-of-view of give-and-take, then it is all give and give and no take. We might get small parcels of foodgrains on payment and we might get Christmas boxes from the West, but if we were to calculate on the basis of the vast area of our country as well as the misery of the 400 million people who reside in it, we have got nothing. Yes, Europe was devastated, but, as the Honourable Member who preceded me has explained, China and India are also capable of suffering although silently and resignedly. But, Sir, this UNRRA—I do not like the name and its pronunciation does not appeal to me—to which we have given us eight crores of rupees has given us nothing and has not appointed any Indians to share in its management. I should like the Honourable the Commerce Member, and I am sure he has the spark of Muslim sentiment burning in his heart, to find out who are the people employed by this racket as characterised by my predecessor and as a formidable *badmashi*, as I should like to call it. I hope the Honourable the Commerce Member will find out from the Central Office of this organisation who are the employees of this wretched organisation. I do not wish to say something which will be considered as exaggerated or magnified, but is it not a fact that 99.9 per cent of the employees of my friend Mr. Fiorella La Guardia, are members of the Semitic race, my cousins, the Jews. I was in Cairo early in 1945, and there, except for a member of the British aristocracy—I have forgotten his name, he was Lord something—not one person in the organisation was either an Egyptian or a Greek or an Armenian or a Turk. Every member of this organisation was a Jew. You must have read in the newspapers, Sir, that in Austria, Hungary and the Danubian basin these Semitic cousins of mine are working the organisation. It is not the Austrian or the Hungarian or the Czecho-Slovakian that gets either food or clothing or shoes or medicines. All

[Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

these go to one particular section of the people there and I want the Honourable the Commerce Member as well as the Honourable Member for External Affairs to tell us categorically whether they are going to support an organisation which has been organising the undoing of the Arabs in Palestine and other Middle East countries. It is all very well to talk internationalism and it is all very well to tell us in this House that our representatives have gone and shaken hands with this international figure and that international celebrity, but I look at the problem from a special angle. If this UNRRA is going to send shiploads of humanity through UNRRA funds, UNRRA food and UNRRA clothing to destroy the Arab in his own home, is it the intention of the present Government to force India to lend a hand in the killing of the Arabs in Palestine? Sir, you have heard and the whole House must have heard that only a few days ago news came from Italy and other parts of Europe that the UNRRA cannot control those who are in the concentration camps of the refugees and evacuees. They are being sent to fight the Arabs. If the Government of India has made a promise and it cannot back out of it, I would hand over the money and wash my hands of this UNRRA business for all time to come. Those who are controlling the UNRRA will not look at your misery or mine. They will, on the contrary try and utilise the money to make political capital out of it. England will try one way, America will come from the other side, and Stalin will try to thwart them and push them back. But all the time the Government of India will be party to the crime of destroying the Muslims of the Middle East. Should we be party to it? Should we allow our money to be used in organisations which help only one Group? Just as the Government of India is being forced to part with this money, Great Britain and America are perhaps forcing other weak and satellite countries of theirs to pay more money, and then in an angelic attitude they will say "We are repairing the havoc that we had created", and through this they will push forward their own schemes and designs of the new war they have already decided to start. It is, therefore, from this angle that I should like to appeal to the Members of the Government of India to-day not to soil their hands in this dirty business. Sir, I speak with some feeling because I have seen the working of this organisation in Egypt which was supposed to be in charge of Greece after its liberation and that is why I am trying to draw your attention to an aspect of this matter which requires at least at our hands very careful consideration. I said in the debate on the Brettonwoods Bank and Fund give away the money if you must and forget it. Similarly here if the promise made by the predecessors of the present Members of the Government of India must be kept, I P M give the money, but do not in any way agree to share the horrors that are being perpetrated in Palestine and Middle Eastern countries by people fed and clothed by the UNRRA and transported on UNRAA ships to uproot the home of the Arab and establish in its place the National Home of the Jews.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sir, as I said at the commencement, the hope which was held out by the previous Resolution of the House—I intentionally used the word 'hope' in my opening speech—was subject to certain conditions. Those conditions are set out in the statement which I read out to the House. The condition attached was that the grant will be made if circumstances permit and the Government on their part will watch the situation and make no expenditure out of this amount till the end of September, when the position in the country will be reviewed. Now, Sir, under this condition which was then incorporated, Government propose to examine the situation to see how far circumstances would permit us to make that payment and how far also the internal position in the country has been bettered. My intention in putting this motion before the House was really to ascertain the wishes of the Honourable Members and the general sense of the House. I do realise the full force and significance of the points made by both the speakers that there is great distress in the country and the position regarding food is also such that the Central Government has actually to spend nearly

15½ crores for food subsidies. I think the better course would be to seek leave of the House to withdraw this motion and in the light of the criticism which has been made, Government will re-examine the whole position and after taking fully into consideration the wishes of the House and the changed circumstances, whether the change is for the better or for the worse, they will fully examine the situation and reach a decision after full consideration. I hope the House would grant me leave to withdraw this motion because the object which I had in view has been fulfilled. I have got the wishes of the House and Government will now reconsider the whole situation. I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1946-47

DEMAND NO. 7—FOREST

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I beg to move

‘That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Forest’.”

Mr. President: Motion moved

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Forest’.”

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I would like some information on the following points. In the memorandum that has been circulated to us, I find the explanation for these two items. The first is the revival of the post of Officer in charge Woodworks section that costs Rs 50,000. When was the post abolished, why was the post abolished? How is it found necessary to revive that post now? If so, who is that officer? Is he an Indian or a non-Indian that has been brought in to fill that place? The next item is the shifting of Botanical and Utilisation Branch of the museums to their original sites. Where were they? Why was it necessary to shift them to another place? Why is it now thought necessary to bring it back to the original site?

Mr. B. R. Sen (Secretary, Food Department) When the Budget was framed it was not foreseen that the post of Officer in charge, Woodworks section would be necessary. After the Budget was passed it was found that the post was necessary and so the officer was appointed. The officer in question is an Indian Dr S N Kapur. The pay of this officer is Rs 1,500 per month.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about the shifting of botanical and Utilisation branch museums?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have not got the information at present.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I submit, Sir, that the information ought to be ready and laid before the House. This is not a starred question requiring ten days notice. When the supplementary grant was put before the House for voting the Honourable Member ought to be ready with all the information that is commented upon in the Explanatory memorandum circulated along with the Supplementary demands for Grants.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall give the information later.

Mr. President: In any case, further discussion on this Demand is not going to bring the information. So, I shall put the motion to the House.

[Mr. President]

The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Forest' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND NO 9—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 4,28,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' "

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 4,28,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' "

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I want to get some information under this head. In the explanatory memorandum I find there is an item for good conduct pay from 1st March 1916 which accounts for an increase of Rs 1,66,00,000. I want to know whether every individual is recommended for this grant? Whether the individuals conduct is considered in making the recommendation? Or is the good conduct pay automatically given, whether an employee has good conduct or bad conduct? Is every one getting this?

There is another item under the same grant for certain new schemes such as development of postal facilities for rural areas. May I know from the Honourable Member what are the additional facilities on which this sum has been spent?

Sir Harold Shoober (Secretary, Communications Department) Sir, in regard to the good conduct pay I must explain to my Honourable friend that during the period of the war the Posts and Telegraphs Department had to work under conditions of very great stress and strain, and we had to think how in some way we could recognise this general pressure upon all or a large number of the non-gazetted ranks of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. In the first place I will make it clear that no gazetted officer received good conduct pay. But the short answer to the question put by my Honourable friend is that good conduct pay was paid to everybody who was entitled to it and it was not subject to any special examination of the conduct of the individual to see whether he has an individual merit that, nor was good conduct pay deducted on account of bad work or bad conduct. Good conduct pay has also been continued since the war, because I think all Honourable Members here, who are very great friends of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, will admit that the stress still continues.

The second point was about the improvement of postal facilities. With regard to that I think most Honourable Members have seen the post-war plan of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. It has been our aim to form a plan, which is a fifteen-year plan but in segments of five years and it has been our aim to get a post office in every village of about two thousand inhabitants. Apart from that, as Honourable Members are aware, we still are only able to give a postal delivery once or twice a week or sometimes three times a week. But we are endeavouring to increase the postal facilities, to increase the number of post offices as quickly as possible, and this particular five lakhs is the first step in a much bigger scheme.

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 4,28,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 13-A—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 17,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly' "

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 17,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly' "

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 5,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commerce Department' "

Mr. President. Motion moved

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 5,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commerce Department' "

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I find that this relates to the Preparatory Commission of International Conference on Trade and Unemployment in the United Kingdom. I find recently that this House is completely ignored in the selection of personnel for the various deputations and delegations. I should like that all traders, scientists and other competent people should be taken but Members of this House who are competent should be taken also. I should like to know the personnel of this Commission.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member) Unfortunately I have not got the names with me just now.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has any Honourable Member of this House been included?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: How can I say that when I have not got the names?

Mr. President: Can the Honourable Member give that information after lunch?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Yes, Sir

Mr. President: Then we will adjourn now

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch Till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The information asked for is this. The names of the Indian Trade Delegation to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on International Trade and Employment are:—

Leader.

1 Mr R K Nehru, I C S, Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Commerce Department

Members

2 Mr B N Adarkar, M B E , M A (Cantab), Deputy Economic Adviser to the Government of India.

3 Dr P S Lokanathan, D Sc (Econ) (London), Editor, *Eastern Economist*, New Delhi

4 Dr B N Ganguli, Professor of Economics, Delhi University

5 Dr A I Qureshi, M Sc (London), Ph D (TCD), Economic Adviser to the Hyderabad Government

6 Mr D G Mulherkar, Secretary of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

7 Mr H S Mahk, C I E , I C S Prime Minister, Patiala State Secretary

8 Mr M A Mulky, M Sc (Econ) (London), Under Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department

I may mention that no part of the demand for the supplementary grant of rupees five lakhs refers to the expenses connected with the Preparatory Commission, and as my Honourable friend Mr Ayyangar had not given me previous intimation, I was not ready with the information

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How is it then that in the memorandum circulated to us it is mentioned under Demand No. 22 as item (b) on page 5—“the Preparatory Commission of International Conferences on Trade and Employment in the United Kingdom. May I ask from the Honourable Member if he would consider the desirability of associating with such Delegations two non-official members of the Assembly also?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Non-officials who are considered suitable have been included in the delegation

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, that raises a very important point. On all such delegations it is only fair to this House as well as to the public that not only non-officials from outside but also non-officials who have paid special attention to such matters as come up for discussion under any one particular delegation are also given an opportunity of playing their proper role in such delegations gaining the necessary experience and afterwards coming back and enriching the debates of this House and also helping the public to understand what is being done in many of these delegations. I know it has been the practice of the Government in the past to make these things a sort of a close preserve and as my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar, put it this morning to select a number of hand-picked people and send them up and make it a sort of favour to them. We wanted to put an end to that sort of practice and it is also a fact that many of us in those days were not willing to associate ourselves with these various delegations that were being sent by the previous Government. But now that things have changed and most of the Members of this House are anxious to associate themselves with the Government and co-operate with it and help it and assist it, it is only fair that in future whenever these delegations are being thought of and their personnel is being selected proper representation is given to the various sections of this House.

One more point I shall make. There are various organisations catering to the needs of not only these commercial interests but also to rural interests—agrarian interests. They have been neglected till now. The Merchants chambers have become very strong organisations, Chambers also have become very strong, even trade unions have become very strong and effective. But when it comes to the peasants, the agricultural workers, and the Harijans, and the scheduled castes and various others and the rural masses as a whole that is not the case unfortunately. They are not so very well organised; they are not able to make their voice felt effectively and naturally on many an occasion their case has gone by default and they have not been thought of at all. I hope the Government—not only this particular Member, but all the Members of the Government—will keep this in mind and see that whenever a relevant occasion arises, those interests also are given due representation and weight.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I may mention that Government will try to utilize the best possible talents in the country, and there is no intention to exclude the Members of this House from these selections.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: But what about the other points I have made?

Mr. President: Order, order. The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 5,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted

' DEMAND NO 23-A—DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER

* **The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan:** Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 15,75,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of the 'Department of Works, Mines and Power'."

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 15,75,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of the 'Department of Works, Mines and Power'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I learn that this Department is establishing a Board called the Power Board—I speak subject to correction in regard to the title of this particular Board. I learn that so far all the Members of this Board are Europeans. There are only two at present, but they are supposed to be three. There is still one place vacant. I do not know who is going to be appointed. I trust that no more Europeans will be appointed and I also trust that at the earliest possible opportunity the whole of this Board will be Indianized. If necessary, Government may take this occasion to send people abroad—may be for one year or two years—get them trained and experienced in this matter, and then after their return, let them be appointed.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I also support my Honourable friend's demand for this reason. I know, Sir, that two out of the three gentlemen are Europeans who have been brought out from the United Kingdom, and they are not in search of local talent which is available in this country. There are persons who have served in 'Tatas' and other huge industrial concerns but unfortunately the question of their suitability is left to the discretion of these Europeans who are naturally anxious to avoid their coming in. I therefore say that the choice and selection of Indians ought not to be left to these persons who are interested. That involves not only the question of appointment and payment of a salary to Indians to the tune of two or three thousand, but Sir, in addition, whoever is appointed has got the power to say that these articles which are necessary can only be brought from the United Kingdom and cannot be manufactured in this country. So we are losing doubly—the experience of individuals who are appointed in this Board and who will not permanently settle here.

The other one is that he will see with the least delay possible that all the accessories necessary for making ourselves self-sufficient in all the materials are manufactured in this country. Therefore I would urge upon the Honourable Member not to leave it to these persons who are likely to entrench themselves here but to take it upon himself to appoint a competent Indian to the third vacancy.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale (Secretary Works, Mines and Power Department) I am not at all sure that the Central Technical Power Board to which reference has been made really falls under any of these four heads.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We do not want your Department at all!

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: It is a fact that the Central Technical Power Board which is supposed to have three members, has at present only got two members who are non-Indians. The third post is still vacant, and in connection with the filling of this post, Government have been making every effort to try and fill it by an Indian and the best possible man will be selected.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: By whom?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: By Government. It does not rest with the other two members of the Board. The same applies to the other senior officers. Appointments are all made by Government and not by the Board except perhaps very minor appointments. The Federal Public Services Commission comes in and all the ordinary rules apply. I think the House may take it that the points raised will be fully taken into consideration in making appointments.

Another point raised was about the manufacture of electrical machinery. That point is also very much under the consideration of Government. But it is not something which can be dealt with very quickly, and it will take time. It is not part of the duty of this Board to undertake manufacture. I presume that will come under Industry and Civil Supplies Department. This Board is technical and advisory. They undertake investigation of electrical projects. Manufacturing goods is not part of the duty of this Board.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Ordering goods is part of its duty!

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Certainly, and in accordance with the general policy of Government, every endeavour will be made to see that as many orders as possible are placed in this country.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: And as few as possible will be placed in other countries!

Mr. President: Order, order. The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 15,75,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of the 'Department of Works, Mines and Power'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr Liaquat Ali Khan. Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 11,84,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Food Department'."

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 11,84,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Food Department'."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I find under this head, among others, two items. The first is the creation of an office in Indonesia for arranging imports of rice. I read recently in one of the local newspapers that it is not possible to export a large quantity of rice for want of ships. I do not know what the position of this office is, and whether the persons in charge are in a position to negotiate. It appears that all those ships available for use for export of rice were taken over by the Dutch authorities who are trying to fight a battle royal with the republicans there. Therefore they are not available for us and the 500,000 tons originally arranged to be sent to us have been held up there and only 25,000 tons have been sent to this country. If so better men who can go round, should be sent. Far from opposing this motion, I would like that the status of the man in charge of this office should be raised to that of a Minister who should be able to deal with the entire East Asiatic Continent.

As regards the second one—as regards the Food Delegation to the U K, and the U S A American Famine Emergency Mission. Is it without cost to us? I thought they came at their own expense and when they returned they

made a report. It is not clear from the Rs. 11 lakhs what amount we spent. We have also tried to contribute our mite to get over our difficulty.

Prof. N. G. Ranga. It is not usual for me at any time to congratulate the Food Department. In fact I have been one of its strongest critics. I am glad to be able to say that today I wish to congratulate the Food Department upon the initiative and enterprise that it has displayed in this particular regard, that is, in risking its money and sending its people and also steamers, trawlers and a number of consumer goods over to Indonesia in the hope of getting in return sufficient quantities of food to relieve our own distress in the country. The trouble they have taken has been very well justified. Already imports have begun to pour in and we are hoping that some more might come in very soon. But the Food Department ought not to stop here. Not only is it necessary that the status of our representative there should be raised but also the Food Department should venture upon similar missions and similar enterprises in regard to the other South Eastern Asiatic countries, especially Siam. We know there is plenty of rice there. We have been told that Siam has been promising to send rice to us but she has not been able to send it. We do not know why. We would like the Food Department to display similar enterprise in regard to that country also. There are other missions—the American Food Mission. I am in a position to assure Mr. Ayyangar that the money we spent on it was well spent.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I knew it!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They went back to their country and supported all the contentions of our own Food Department in regard to our demands for food and maintained that we needed one and a half million tons of food to be imported into our country and made a very eloquent plea for these imports and supported India's case for food imports. If I am not mistaken, I think it was our own Government which suggested to the American non-official leaders that they had better send to our country a mission like that so that they could investigate things for themselves, see for themselves and on their return report to their people. Such missions are useful and I hope it would be possible for the Food Department to take the initiative in this direction in regard to Argentine and other food exporting countries so that those people also would be able to come here and satisfy themselves and on their return report to their people the hope of greater imports coming into our country more freely.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural). I would just like to ask what quantity of rice he is expecting from Indonesia. Is the quantity sufficiently large to justify the opening of an office in that country? I also want to know whether there is a chance of getting sugar from Indonesia, because at present there is so much shortage of sugar in India that the ration has been recently cut down and the price of sugar has been raised. If we could get sugar from Java or other places nearby it would be a great relief to the Indian people. But as a preliminary to that I would ask the Food Department to approach his colleague the Commerce Member that the enormous duty that they have already imposed upon the import of sugar should be abolished. The duty was good enough at the time protection was needed but now that we are short of sugar ourselves and we badly need imported sugar from Java and other countries, I think that duty should be abolished. I would request him to include in this programme not only wheat but also sugar and as a preliminary to that (and here he may take it for granted that we are all with him) the duty on sugar should be abolished.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Sir, the House will remember that during last session, there was a report of an offer made by the President of the Indonesian Republic of 750,000 tons of paddy to this country. Immediately after we heard about that offer we investigated the sources which brought that offer to us. When it became clear that the offer was genuine we started negotiations with that country. The first difficulty we met was this. The Dutch Government took the view that the Dutch East Indies as a whole was deficit and therefore even

[Mr B R Sen]

if there was a surplus in Indonesia, that surplus could not be regarded as a surplus to the Dutch East Indies as a whole. Therefore they wanted a guarantee from us that if later on the Dutch East Indies as a whole faced a deficit India would return a part of the quantities that she got from Indonesia. These negotiations took nearly three months to conclude. The matter went up to the International Emergency Food Council and it was decided that India should be allowed to take whatever India expected to receive from Indonesia without any definite commitment to the Dutch. After this point was settled the question arose of the movement of the paddy from the interior to the ports and the rail heads. It was found that the Indonesians were short of internal transport, the only transport that they could use was the bullock carts. It was represented to us that unless we provided them with a large number of motor trucks, the offer which they had made to us could not be implemented. We approached the Allied Commander in Indonesia who stated that from the military point of view it was undesirable to hand over motor trucks to the Indonesians. This matter was taken up with His Majesty's Government and it took nearly two months to settle this question. It was ultimately decided after the Interim Government had come into power, by His Majesty's Government that whatever military risks might be involved, the risks in India of famine were so great that the trucks should be supplied. We came nearly to the end of August before all these points were settled. It was not, as one of the Honourable Members suggested, due to lack of officers of a suitable status to represent our case in Indonesia that thus this delay took place. The delay was inherent in the nature of the problem. Throughout we had dealt with the Indonesian Government at the highest possible level. We sent a high officer from this Government, who had personal contact with the President of the Indonesian Republic. So the complaint is not justified. We have done everything possible to see the whole matter expedited if we have failed it is due to circumstances beyond our control.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about ships?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There has been no difficulty about ships in regard to despatch of paddy from Indonesia. The main trouble has been lack of paddy at the ports. Till the other day the position was that the two major ports in Java, viz. Surabaya and Batavia were in the possession of the Dutch and the ports which we could use for getting out the Indonesian paddy were minor ports, where there were no proper arrangements for loading and unloading. The ships had to stay about two miles out of the harbour and we had to arrange to send lighters from India for the purpose of helping in the loading of ships. It has never been a question of lack of ships. As a matter of fact the difficulty has been that paddy is not there at the ports in sufficient quantities. Some of the ships which had been programmed for Indonesia had to be cancelled.

As regards the American Food Mission, it is true that before the Food Mission arrived in this country we ourselves had been thinking of devising ways and means of getting the Indian situation properly understood by the Americans. The House will remember that about the end of April, ex-President Hoover visited this country as the personal representative of President Truman to understand what the situation in this country was. He accepted our figures of demand and he presented those figures to the President of the United States and also to the public. Soon after, in order to get a proper and definite decision from the United States His Majesty's Government sent out the Lord President of the Council, Mr. Herbert Morrison, to argue our case. Mr. Morrison arranged a definite allocation for us but we found this allocation to be quite inadequate. The total quantity that was allocated to us was 1,165 million tons compared with over two million tons which we had asked for. When we heard about this allocation, we thought of sending out some of our repre-

representatives to the United States in order to present our case more fully. Just about that time we got an offer from the India League, of which Miss Pearl Buck is the President, to send some prominent Americans to this country in order to understand the situation and in order to take back material which could be used for rousing public opinion in America with regard to the Indian situation. We accepted this offer with enthusiasm and we promised to give all possible help to the Mission. The total expenditure on the American Food Mission, about which Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar has asked for information, is Rs. 52,000 and that amount was spent mostly in providing for aerial transport to the Mission and for their stay in different cities in India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the quantity of rice expected from Java?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The total quantity which was offered was 750,000 tons. We cannot say exactly how much is expected. It will depend upon the movement of the paddy from the interior to the ports. I may mention one point here. Since these negotiations started, there has been a truce between the Dutch and the Indonesians. If there is peace between the two peoples it is possible that the Indonesians would like to conserve their resources for the other islands of Dutch East Indies rather than send them to India. We are, however, hoping that with the consumer goods which we are supplying in quantities, we shall be able to induce the Indonesians to keep the promise that they had made.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: You try to get sugar also.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Before coming to Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad's point, I would like to deal with the points raised by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga. With regard to Siam from the very beginning we took an active interest in what went on in that country. The treaty between the Allies and the Siam Government provided for a Commission which was to go into the question of availability of rice in the country. The first assessment of the Commission was 1.5 million tons and this was later revised to 1.2 million tons. In any case the machinery was provided by the treaty itself. We lent the services of one of our officers to be the Chairman of that Commission on behalf of the United Kingdom. We lent his services on the definite promise that he was also to look after the interests of India while working on that body. Originally the treaty confined the membership of the Commission to U.S.A., U.K. and Siam. Since then India and China have been asked to have members on the Commission. It is true that the quantities which have come out of Siam have been small compared with what was expected by us but this has been due not to lack of effort on our part or on the part of His Majesty's Government but due primarily to the internal conditions in that country. At times there have also been difficulties regarding transport. But we hope the situation will improve and we will get substantial quantities from that country at least during the next six months.

Prof. Ranga also referred to our taking active part in getting grains from other countries like Argentina. That is a suggestion we have already taken up and one which my friend Diwan Chaman Lal is making when he reports on the work of his mission.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad has asked us about sugar. I cannot tell the House what the actual production of sugar in Java will be, but we have got a report of a speech made by the Secretary General of the International Emergency Food Council, Dr. Fitzgerald in which he says that sugar production next year will be very much better than this year. He has mentioned certain figures which I have not got before me just now, but on that report we have taken steps to press our case strongly for substantial imports of sugar next year. If we get substantial quantities of sugar, then the cut that we imposed this year on the sugar quotas to different provinces will, we hope, be restored.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay European) May I ask the Honourable Member one question? I do not think he answered the question as to the amount of rice that has actually come out of Indonesia. I am anxious not to disparage what appears to be a very generous offer, but at some stage or other, it may be that the Government of India will find that they have been the victim of optimism. I presume that ships have been sent there and they may be very much better used elsewhere to bring wheat from, say, America.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I can assure the Honourable Member that the shipping programme is very carefully drawn up. It is not that we send ships to Indonesia and the ships lie idle there. Before the ships are allowed to go to ports in Indonesia, we have to report what quantities are available in the ports for loading.

As regards the quantities which have come out, the actual quantity till the end of October was 20,000 tons in terms of rice. Taking the quantity of grain which is in transit or lying in ports, I think the total quantity is 40,000 tons in terms of rice.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: When did you start getting this rice?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The first shipment was, I think, at the beginning of October.

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 11,84,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Food Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No 42—METEOROLOGY.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No 45—MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,71,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,71,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

Sri. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member what the functions of the Central Committee of National Association is and for what purposes this amount has been spent? What is the ordinary grant for it and what is the control exercised by this Assembly over the Central Committee of National Association? What is its composition, who is its president and how is it run?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam (Secretary, Health Department) Sir, the Central Dufferin Association, as it is called is an association which was founded by the Countess of Dufferin, the original funds were derived from subscriptions

which were collected at that time. In addition, Government gives a yearly grant to meet part of its expenses, and that grant comes before this House in the ordinary way. Her Excellency is the President of this Association, there is an Executive committee of which the Auditor General is the Chairman, and which consists partly of official members and partly of non-official members, and on which there are two members of this House serving. Apart from the Central Association, there are a number of provincial associations which are similar charitable associations and which have the management of various hospitals in the provinces for providing medical aid to women and children. They obtain their funds partly from charitable sources and partly from grants from provincial governments and partly from assistance given by the Central Dufferin Association. This grant which forms the subject of this supplementary demand has been given to the central association to enable them to assist the provincial associations in obtaining some of the surplus medical stores which are at present available for improving the local Dufferin Hospitals.

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,71,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 48—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 4,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 4,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 53—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 75,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Supplies'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 75,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Supplies'."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, in this memorandum it is said. "This cut, however, is not likely to be realised in full owing mainly to (i) the expansion of the Disposals Organisation consequent on the taking over by the Government of India of American surplus stores, and (ii) the grant of arrears etc." The other day at question time, this matter came up and the Honourable Member said that 30 Europeans were brought from England, they must certainly have been brought out only on a contract of service, and the contract can be terminated by six months' notice—they need not be kept on for the full term of three years. At the time when various articles were purchased I believe there was no such huge organisation as at the time of disposal. I would like to know why this organisation has become so big, when the original organisation which made the purchases did not cost so much.

Again it says "taking over by the Government of India of American surplus stores." In answer to a question it was elicited from the government member the other day that out of the nominal value of the stores that were purchased,

[**Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**]

later on on checking Rs 8 crores worth of foodstuffs was not available. That is what the Honourable Mr Sen gave out the other day. I would like to know from him if he is in a position to state now how 8 crores worth of material which were taken over by way of surplus from American stores have been lost and who is responsible. What steps are being taken to recover that amount?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I am sorry my Honourable colleague, Dr Matthai is not present owing to indisposition but I shall reply on his behalf.

My Honourable friend Mr Ayyangar wants to know why the Disposal Department has been expanded. I would like to point out that the activities of this department have expanded without any notice. The Government have taken over the American surplus stores and if I may give some figures, that alone will convince my Honourable friend how vast must be the activities of this department to deal with this problem. The Government have taken over American surplus stores totalling some 6 lakhs of tons. It is not possible to arrange for the disposal of such big surplus stores without having an adequate machinery to tackle with this problem. Most of this expenditure is really on advertisements and on publicity and on making people know as to what are the goods that are with this department for disposal. There has always been a complaint in the past that this department was disposing of goods without giving sufficient information to the public. In other words it was maintained that this department was giving these goods to some selected persons for the benefit of those particular persons. Now, the activities of the Department have been expanded in the direction of advertising the goods. Regularly every month lists are issued of all the goods that are for disposal and the widest publicity is given. Therefore out of this 75 lakhs, nearly 40 lakhs is really for this particular purpose. Some of these will be realised by sale of these lists of goods that are published every year and that are sold to people. It is really on account of unforeseen circumstances that this extra expenditure will be incurred during the course of this year.

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 75,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No 60—CURRENCY

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 21,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Currency'."

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 21,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Currency'."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I oppose this motion for this reason.

The note in the memorandum at the bottom says that the excess is due to unanticipated increase in the requirements of bank note paper and the rise in the cost of paper. It is this lavish expenditure on paper that is responsible for inflation in this country. I do not know when this will stop. There is a provision in the Reserve Bank Act that whatever sterling paper is on the one hand, corresponding paper must be printed in the security press and thrown over the head of people for goods being taken away and themselves allowed to starve both in the matter of clothing and food. I would like to have an assurance from the Honourable Member that he will take steps to see that there is no further need to go on printing these notes and throwing them on the heads of people.

Hitherto we have been bound to honour all that paper which has been sent to this country in exchange for gold. Sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act should be immediately repealed. I would continue to press my objections until my Honourable friend gives me an assurance and no more notes are unnecessarily printed in this country merely to honour sterling paper or other paper. Immediate steps ought to be taken to do away with the linking of our rupee to sterling by the repeal of sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend has raised a number of questions. I only hope that he will continue to honour the paper currency of this Government in the same way as he was doing with the last Government. I can assure him that we have no desire to print more notes than what are required but as long as we have to, I am afraid we must buy the best quality paper. Nothing would please me more than to see my Honourable friend juggling metallic money in his pocket rather than carry notes carefully in his waist coat pocket. We are not here discussing the question of inflation and paper currency and then advantages and disadvantages. This extra expenditure has got to be incurred because of the rise in the price of note paper which we have to buy from England, until such time as we are able to produce the paper of the required quality in this country, so that forgers may not take advantage of it. I hope my friend will really not oppose this motion. It is very innocent. The intention is really not to print more notes than are needed. We have to print more notes of smaller denomination to make up for the old and paper notes that were withdrawn from circulation. I do not know why my friend thinks that this demand is meant to increase the paper currency of this country. That is not the intention and I can assure him that we will not produce more notes than are required for the economy of the country.

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 21,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No 61—MINT.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Mint'."

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 2,46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No 62—MISCELLANEOUS

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 16,07,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 16,07,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I want to oppose this motion. I feel very strongly on this particular point of subsidising the imported foodstuffs to the tune of 15 crores of rupees. As the House knows very well, I have been maintaining consistently, but without achieving much success, that it is the duty of the Government to make India self-sufficient in regard to food. And in order to achieve that objective, it is necessary for this House and the Government and

[Prof N G Ranga]

the consumers in our country to agree to pay adequate and remunerative prices to the producers. But unfortunately I have not been able to persuade the Food Department, irrespective of the particular incumbent who happens to be its Minister, to agree to these two unquestionable propositions. Why is it necessary for India to go on sending various ambassadors to different countries? Only to go there and beg those people on their bended knees to give us more and more foodgrains. Is it because India is not prepared to pay for them? We have been willing to pay and yet they are unwilling to spare these foodgrains to our country. I have myself been to Copenhagen the other day along with my Honourable friend Mr Abdul Gham Khan. We interviewed one after the other various delegations. We pressed them hard. We tried to persuade them in private and in the end when we failed in our private conversations, we made public appeals also in the forum of their own open plenary session and taunted them by saying that it will be wrong on their part to prefer the feeding of their pigs and poultry rather than sent those foodgrains to our country. In spite of that the foodgrains are not coming in sufficient quantities to our country. We did not ask for charity. We offered to pay them any prices they are willing to demand. And here is the Government coming forward and saying that the prices which they have been willing to pay and have been paying are much higher than the foodgrain prices prevailing in our own country. Why should it be so? It is because our Government has not been willing till now to pursue the correct policy in this particular direction. They have been pursuing, on the other hand, a wrong-headed policy and unfortunately for us all they have succeeded in making the Honourable Members in charge of this Department to re-echo their wrong-headed policies, programmes and decisions. What is the position? When it comes to industries and the production for industries, one after the other these Ministers in charge of Industries Department come here to this House and say that they are willing to raise the tariff walls against foreign imports in order to encourage industrial development in our own country. But when it comes to agriculture, they are not prepared to give us any sort of protection. Last time when we had that great economic depression and there were imports of wheat from Australia and rice from Siam pouring into this country and depressing the prices of agricultural produce, it took us several years hard struggle before we could persuade the Government to give a paltry protection to our own peasants. But now that the country is badly in need of foodgrains and our people demand only remunerative and decent prices, prices that will just cover their cost of cultivation, what is the answer that the Food Department has been giving? What is the policy that has been followed by the Food Department? They have been importing foodgrains into this country at prices higher than the prices ruling in our own country and then subsidising the distribution of these imported foodgrains in order that the local prices can be kept down at a reasonable level. But what do they mean by reasonable level? They mean a low enough level. And what do they mean by it? They want the prices to be at such levels as would be profitable for all the urban consumers, for all the service people, for all the professionals and for all those people who have been fattening at the cost of the Government and the public during the last few years of war inflation. In order to benefit these people our agriculturists have to be made to sell their produce not at remunerative prices, not at all at profitable prices but at prices that are purposely kept down with the help of these imported foodgrains.

This is an unjust dispensation. This is a dispensation that no national Government can possibly be proud of. A national Government should take the earliest possible opportunity to put an end to this kind of system. Sir, 15½ crores of rupees are being asked today to grant to this Government in order that they may be able to continue to succeed to keep down our peasants in our own country. I was asked to accept a sort of answer to a judicial inquiry into the proposition whether the present prices ruling in our own rural areas for our agricultural produce are remunerative or not. I said I was quite prepared

for it. But why wait till then? Why should not the Food Department as well as the Government of India make up their own mind, first of all, to pay adequate and remunerative prices and then begin to ascertain whether those prices are remunerative at all. Then, they bring in a companionate argument "They must be just to the consumers." What did they mean by this? Did they think of this when they were granting to their own various officials the war time bonuses, dearness allowances, cheap gram shops and various other things? Did they think of all these things when they were granting all these various special concessions to the working classes themselves when the working classes took courage in both their hands and went on strike? They did not do so. Now they begin to think of just prices. To whom are they to be just? Should they not be just to the agriculturists? We do not ask for profits. Just as you are now fixing the prices for manufactured goods and wages for industrial workers, so also you should fix the prices in regard to agricultural produce. But on what basis? See that allowance is made for depreciation to our cattle, agricultural implements and various other things that we are obliged to maintain. See also to the rate of interest that we have to pay and the capital that we borrow from these money-lenders who are of the towns. See also that all the over-head expenses are allowed and in addition to all that . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) But what do you want?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I want to tell you .

Mr. President: Order, Order. I may just remind the Honourable Member that this matter has been fully gone into and discussed during the course of the food debate which lasted for two days. If the Honourable Member wants to oppose this motion, he can just invite the attention of the House to the salient points of the debate and not repeat the whole of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am not repeating the whole debate. First of all, it is not possible for me within ten minutes to repeat the whole of the debate that took place in two days. I am only anxious to make a few points. Therefore, I do not propose to give a detailed answer to my Honourable friend here, who is the spokesman for labour. I only say this. Labour have had a fair deal and they have got the money at the cost of the rest of the public. These Government officials have been getting it too at the cost of everybody. Similarly, it is only reasonable that I should stand up here for a fair deal for the producers of our own primary produce. Sir, when more wages are granted, there is inflation, when more salaries are granted, there is inflation, dearness allowances also produce inflation. And yet the Government do not think of inflation in those cases. But when I ask for remunerative prices for the agricultural producer, they think of inflation. This is a most extraordinary dispensation. I inveigh against this urban system that is eating into the very vitals of our own country among our people. These professionals, intellectuals, and industrialists, and these proletariats who are all living in towns, they have all monopolised the whole show and they raise the cry of bring down the prices. In order to bring down the prices, the first victim and the last victim is the peasant. In putting up prices, in paying taxes, in bearing the whole burden of the cost of this huge administration, it is the peasant that is being exploited. Even when he brings the essential produce to the market, you put him down by refusing to pay more than remunerative price. I ask for nothing more than this that the peasant should get the cost of cultivation. Let no profit be allowed to him, let all the profit go to the Government, the peasant is not hankering after profit, he only wants his cost of cultivation to be met. With all the sense of responsibility, in the name of the peasants of this country, I make this statement that the prices that are paid now, at least in South India, in C P, in Orissa and in certain parts of Bihar are not at all remunerative to the cultivator, are not even such as to cover the cost of cultivation. Therefore, I suggest that you should leave the fixation of price to the Provincial Governments, let the provincial governments say whether the present prices are enough or not. In the past the Government of India officials, including my Honourable friend Mr Sen used to say, if anything was brought forward here

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the provincial governments should decide that I am prepared to accept the proposition that the provincial governments should decide this issue. The Government of India convene a meeting of the provincial Food Ministers at the Central and tell them, look here, "if you want import or foodgrains for your province you must behave like good boys, to not ask for any rise in price on your own local food grains." What can these poor blighters do? They are supposed to be popular Ministers, they are responsible to the legislatures, but they are up against this big difficulty here that without these imports they will not be able to make their food budget balance itself. Therefore they have got to depend upon the Central Government." If so, they go back to their respective provinces and tell their own people, "now, look here, this is our predicament. What can we do. For God's sake let us have import of food stuffs, unless we fix the price of our food stuffs at such and such a level, the Central Government refuse to allow imports to us. Unless we agree to this proposition we cannot expect any import of food grains. Because we are good Congressmen or good Muslim Leaguers, we are responsible to you, you wanted us to take office. If you want us to remain in office and carry on the administration, then for God's sake allow us to accept the present level of prices fixed by the Government of India even though they are not remunerative." Well, Sir, this is the game that the Government of India are playing. I would not have been so unhappy if the old Government had remained in office. My own Government is now in office. The masses claim the occupants of the Treasury Benches is their own men. They are all exultant over this. In spite of the new Government having come in, if the old dispensation should continue, if the old wrongheadedness of the Food Department should persist, I warn the Government that it will not be long before there is a break in our loyalty to our political parties and our leaders. There is bound to be reaction, there is bound to be trouble and revolution in the offing.

So, there is one thing more I have to say. If you are going to put down our peasants in this way, then I am afraid the peasants will turn round and say, 'no more protection for Indian industries, no more high salaries, no more dearness allowance for Government officials, no increase in wages for workers, no more labour legislation, and all that.' I agree this will be an unreasonable proposition. It will be an unjust challenge from the peasants, I agree. But when a man is forced to the extreme and reasonable and square deal is not given to him, then he is bound to become unreasonable. There is one other danger. Already it is happening among our people. They prefer the production of non-food crops to production of food crops. Come to my own province and see for yourself. Our people are not willing to produce food crops, so much as they are anxious to raise tobacco, sugar cane, oil seeds and various other things. I know in northern India, you use oil seeds, but in South India do not eat oil seeds, we want *cholum*, rice and other things. But our peasants are not prepared to raise these crops. Why? Not because of propaganda, but because of their own decision individual decision one after another because production of food grains is the least remunerative indeed it is a losing proposition. Whereas by producing only these commercial crops, they are able to make both ends meet and also subsidise production of foodgrains. Therefore even if we are not prepared as kisan-congress people to provide for necessary leadership to help them in their threat to go on strike, to go on food strike, I know the Government by their policy is not going to engineer a food strike, I myself do not like food strike, but nobody likes the way in which the Government is treating the peasants. Our peasants will soon come to their own and will drive wisdom into our people, into the government officials who are at the helm of affairs who are all non-kisans and yet who are playing a powerful part in the political life of this country. If things do not improve, then I am afraid this unhappy and unpalatable alternative may have to be resorted to by those people who claim to be genuine representatives, genuine spokesmen and also genuine organisers of the peasants in this country. Sir, I oppose this motion.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Sir, as you yourself pointed out, this subject was discussed during the food debate. It is unfortunate that Prof. Ranga had to be absent from that debate. If he were here, he would have seen that all aspects of this question were gone into in detail. It is true that in order to arrive at the proper price level, one must have certain data, for instance the cost of production. But up to now, we have had no reliable material on the subject. Prof. Ranga has argued that the present prices are unremunerative. But what is the evidence he gives to prove his point? Mere statement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Come to my villages.

Mr. B. R. Sen: During the food debate, I pointed out that we had just received the report of the committee which we had appointed presided over by Sir V. T. Krishnamachari and that report also lays down the mechanism by which the price levels in future should be fixed. Certain preliminary enquiries have to be made regarding the cost of production, the cost of articles which go into the cost of living producers and so on. They say that this collection of material will require time and in the transition period the Government should try and fix the price at parity levels, that is levels which have some parity with the cost of other things. Sir, the Honourable Food Member during the food debate gave reasons in detail why his conclusion was that the present price levels were not unremunerative and should be continued. In the course of his speech, he quoted certain figures about the rise in price levels of certain commodities. These figures are before Honourable Members of the House and they can examine these figures. The figures show that the price level of all foodgrains was about 150 taking 1939-40 as the basic period, the price level of other articles was less than 300, except in the case of one or two items. That being so, it seems reasonable to hold that the foodgrains prices at present are not unremunerative. Sir, I also quoted during the food debate from the report of the Woodhead Commission which had examined the price level which should be fixed for the post war period. Though it must be admitted that they did not have all the necessary data before them, the commission was composed of people who were able and impartial men and their findings must command our respect. They came to the conclusion that the price level for the postwar period for foodgrains should be 240 per cent of the prewar level and 240 per cent was represented by the price level in Madras. They thought that that was the level which all Governments should try to aim at. (Interruption from Prof. Ranga) I know it is very difficult to convince Prof. Ranga once he has made up his mind. I can only refer to the salient points which are mentioned in the course of the debate. Sir, I was rather surprised at his statement that prices in this country have been kept down by imports. For a statement of this nature to be made by Prof. Ranga is amazing.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Are they competitive imports or are they absolutely necessary?

Mr. B. R. Sen: These are absolutely necessary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I may draw attention to what they have themselves said. "To retain the existing price level"—this subsidisation is being granted.

Mr. B. R. Sen: The point is quite clear. The prices of rice and wheat which we get from outside with the freight and other costs come to very much more than the prices within the country, and therefore if the present price level which is considered high for the consumers is not to be raised still further, the difference between the prices of the imported grains and the prices of the internal grains must be subsidised. It is a clear proposition and I do not see any reason for a conclusion to be drawn from it like the one which Prof. Ranga has drawn. No one would be happier than the Food Department if they had not had to import such large quantities from outside the country. The Honourable Food Member also emphasised during the Food Debate that in the imme-

[Mr B R Sen]

date future the greatest emphasis of the Interim Government would be laid on increasing production in this country, and for that Government would do everything possible by way of financial assistance and otherwise

Sir I should like just to mention one point Prof Ranga mentioned that there will be a strike among the growers and so on He must remember that he has got his own Government now in power—it is not the old Government—and it is idle to administer such threats to the present Government He should have more confidence in his leaders, as I said to one of his colleagues in this House the other day during the Food Debate

Mr. President: The question is

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 16,07,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous’ ”

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 68—POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of ‘Post-War Planning and Development’ ”

Mr President The question is

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947 in respect of ‘Post War Planning and Development’ ”

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 72—PANTH PIPLODA

The Honourable Mr Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I move

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 5,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1947 in respect of ‘Panth Piplođa’ ”

Mr President: Motion moved

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 5,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1947, in respect of ‘Panth Piplođa’ ”

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir we have come to the last of the supplementary demands for this session and you will see that the entire demands cost nearly 22 crores Many of us would like to know how much supplementary amounts have been spent for Defence and External Services Formerly so long as Government was not manned by our own veterans it was their privilege and preserve The Viceroy was not placing it before us and the Assembly was not taken into confidence with regard to that matter Though it may be a little too late now I should like estimates of Defence and External Affairs also in the budget session, now that those estimates are in our own hands to be placed before the Assembly Possibly more than 50 or 60 crores may have been spent away on these departments in addition to the voted estimates We are kept absolutely in the dark and I hope they will be placed before us in the budget session of the House

Mr Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Sir, I wish to raise a point in regard to this though that has nothing to do with Panth Piplođa According to the constitution of 1919 under which this Government is functioning there was an artificial distinction between reserved and transferred departments There was also a distinction between voted and non-voted items, and as the tradition still continues, even in respect of these grants the words ‘voted’ and ‘non-voted’ have constantly appeared

almost under every head I take it that whatever may have been the object of having those distinctions made, I already broke that down last April when I got an assurance from Sir Archibald Rowlands that so far as the Standing Finance Committee is concerned no distinction will be made between voted and non-voted and that all new programmes will be placed before the Standing Committee for their advice and sanction. In the same manner I will request the Finance Minister to go thoroughly into this item and to remove one of those unenviable and bad legacies of the past by which this Government comes to this House and puts down a mixed item column by column and says "On this I want your vote but with regard to the other I do not care what you say, I will have the money." That was the attitude of the last Government, that could not possibly be the attitude of this Government, and I think there is no necessity either. There would be some economy of paper and printing if this is done away with and it would be regularised. I shall be very happy if the Finance Member will give an assurance to this House that he will endeavour to eliminate this distinction between voted and non-voted.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I am afraid the points made by my two Honourable friends hardly arise out of the demand for Panth Pipoda, but anyhow with regard to the request made it is not really possible to meet the wishes of the two Honourable Members unless the Government of India Act of 1935 were changed. I would refer my Honourable friends to section 67(3).

"The proposals of the Governor General in Council for the appropriation of revenues or monies relating to the various heads of expenditure shall not be submitted to the vote of the Assembly nor shall they be open to discussion by either Chamber at the time when the annual statement is under consideration."

That is the position with regard to this matter. Anyhow the matter has been raised and I shall certainly examine it and if within the law it is possible to meet the wishes of Honourable Members they may rest assured that I shall give my sympathetic consideration to it.

Mr. President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 5000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the calendar ending on the 31st day of March, 1947 in respect of 'Panth Pipoda'."

The motion was adopted.

DISCUSSION OF DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS

Miss Maniben Karz (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I move

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. P. G. Solunke, Mr. H. M. Ghazanfarulla, Syed Sher Shah Jeelani, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Seth Sukhdev, Mr. Madandhari Singh, Mr. C. P. Lawson, Mr. Bhagratshi Mahapatra, Sir George Spence, Col. Kumar Shri Himmatsingh and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next Budget Session and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. P. G. Solunke, Mr. H. M. Ghazanfarulla, Syed Sher Shah Jeelani, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Seth Sukhdev, Mr. Madandhari Singh, Mr. C. P. Lawson, Mr. Bhagratshi Mahapatra, Sir George Spence, Col. Kumar Shri Himmatsingh and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next Budget Session and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1946-47—RAILWAYS

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Member for Railways and Transport) I am not quite sure whether I should make a short statement which may cover the entire field of the demands which are going to be placed before this House. I think it would be by far the most convenient way of dealing with

[Mr M Asaf Ali]

them if I offer an explanation of the aggregate effect of the demands instead of taking one demand after another. I may also mention, Sir, that these supplementary demands are submitted for the vote of the House during the autumn session, because it was argued during the Budget session that supplementary grants for the current year should not follow but precede the normal budget demands. It is but only in the fitness of things that it should be so, because towards the end of the financial year much of the expenditure incurred in excess of the budget really becomes an *ex post facto* report and therefore the House can have a legitimate grievance that the true picture of the excess was not presented to them, in good time.

The aggregate of all the demands which I shall submit to the vote of the House today is of the order of 26½ crores which is made up of all the ten items put down on the list of demands including a sum of about ten lakhs which are non-voted. Of these ten demands seven relate to working expenses under practically all heads except demand No 6(d) which relates to the maintenance and operation of ferry steamers. The remaining three demands fall under 'Railway Board', 'Audit' and 'Miscellaneous'.

The estimate of the ordinary working expenses of railways for the current year was placed by my predecessor at 125.73 crores and the estimate of the miscellaneous expenditure was 1½ crores. The excess as may be gathered from the details, which appear in the memorandum placed before the Railway Standing Finance Committee and which are in the hands of Honourable Members, has arisen from various causes and is distributed over almost all the heads of working expenses. An excess of 25 lakhs under 'Miscellaneous Expenditure' is in respect of the three demands under 'Railway Board', 'Audit' and 'Miscellaneous'.

The common factors of all the demands except Demand No 3 'Miscellaneous' are arrears of dearness allowance and the interim relief recommended by the Standing Finance Committee of Railways which form the basis of the settlement with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in June last. The cost of giving retrospective effect from the 1st July 1944 to the revision of the dearness allowance originally sanctioned from the 1st January 1945 is estimated by railways to amount to 2.28 crores and the amount which will have to be paid by way of interim relief and for which I shall seek the vote of the House under the various demands for working expenses amounts to 8.43 crores. The total cost of the interim relief is a few lakhs more, namely 59,000 under Demand No 1 and 115,000 under Demand No 2 and a small unassessed amount under Demand No 12 and 3.03 lakhs under Demand No 6(d). The expenditure under Demand 12 and 6(d) of the normal budget demands is expected to be met from savings under other heads in those demands.

The estimate of the loss on grainshops in the budget was placed at 11.33 crores on the assumption that prices in 1946-47 would come down to a level lower than that which prevailed in 1945-46. But actually the prices of grains and pulses have gone up and recently the Government have sanctioned a substantial increase of the price of sugar. Consequently the present estimate of the loss on grainshops is 14.53 crores.

Again as a part of the settlement with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in June last, an assurance was given by the Railway Board that until the Adjudicator's Award has been considered no railway employee who was in service on the 15th September 1945, would be discharged unless he refused to accept alternative employment. The terms on which alternative employment would be offered were also liberalised. As a result of this railways have not been able to keep their expenditure on staff to the level estimated in the budget and an extra provision of 96 lakhs is necessary. It will thus be seen that an increase of 14.87 crores is due directly or indirectly to staff charges.

Out of the balance, 7.66 crores represent a throw forward from the last year. This is not a genuine excess any more than the corresponding saving last year was a genuine saving. It is a purely paper transaction arising out of the peculiarities of Government budgeting which proceeds on the assumption that

the railways go out of business every year on the 31st March and recommence their business on the 1st April. Whatever liability is not discharged by the 31st March, naturally, therefore, results in a saving and the consequential payment in the next year becomes an excess which must be specially voted by the Assembly.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

There are, however, a few items which constitute a genuine excess. They are (i) Fuel—1.2 crores, (ii) Repairs and maintenance—90 lakhs, and (iii) Other miscellaneous items—111 lakhs.

When my predecessor presented his budget for this year the total fuel bill was expected to be 20.37 crores. On account of the additional train services which have been introduced since, the present estimate is 21.57 crores, i.e., one crore and twenty lakhs more. We have also to spend 90 lakhs more on repairs and maintenance. These excesses should not be deplored by the House because they indicate that railways are striving hard to catch up with the arrears of repairs and maintenance on the one hand and that they are trying to increase their services to meet the growing demands of the public. There are other miscellaneous items aggregating to 1.14 crores, out of which an item specially worth mentioning is 'Compensation'. We have to provide 18 lakhs for compensation arising out of recent train accidents, which all concerned and much more so the railways sincerely deplore. For goods lost or damaged the budget estimate was placed at 117 lakhs. I have now to increase it by 15 lakhs. Honourable Members have expressed considerable concern and very rightly so over the growth of our expenditure under this head, which increased from 4.26

lakhs in 1938-39 to a crore and a half in 1945-46. Honourable Members may not feel happy over the supplementary demand of 15 lakhs on this account although even now the expenditure will be below that in 1945-46. From the trend of some of the questions that were asked during the session, it appeared that some members at least were not satisfied that we were meeting the claims made against the railways to the fullest extent. But the figures which I have quoted reveal an entirely different tale and prove that we are doing our utmost to meet all legitimate claims which are maintainable under law. It would be unreasonable to expect us to meet claims which may not be genuine or which may arise from the neglect of the rules under which the public are called upon to declare the value of their goods entrusted to railways for safe carriage. Railways expect the travelling public and others who book their goods for carriage by railways not to think of small economies and to take a little more trouble to insure their belongings and goods at a little extra cost. Let me at the same time explain that this excess does not necessarily connote that measures like strengthening the Watch and Ward which the railways have taken to ensure better care of the goods entrusted to them have not been tolerably effective. The increase should be taken to be due to the intensive effort which has been made by railways to expedite the settlement of outstanding claims.

This is all that I have to say about the increase in working expenses proper. Coming now to the miscellaneous expenditure more than 17 lakhs out of the excess of 25 is under 'Surveys'. This shows that our surveys are proceeding at a more rapid pace than we had hoped for at the time of the budget. Consequently the Government will be able to take decisions more quickly in regard to the post-war construction projects. This demand for an extra 17 lakhs will therefore, I am sure, be welcomed by the House. Out of the rest, 2/3rd lakhs are due to arrears of dearness allowance and the interim relief and the balance is due to various miscellaneous causes including Contingencies and temporary

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali.]

Miscellaneous establishments The most important of these miscellaneous establishment in which the House will feel interested is the High Power Committee which the Government have decided to set up as a result of the recommendations of the Railway Standing Finance Committee. I may inform the House that we have been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. K. C. Neogy as the Chairman of this High Power Committee.

Finally, I may inform the House although this question does not arise directly out of the demands, which I am to submit to the House today, that the Government have taken definite steps to accelerate the pace of the programme for the production of locomotives in India. Our plans have been matured and preliminary steps are already in progress and it is hoped that the bulk of our requirements in respect of locomotives will be produced in India within three years from now. The period of three years may appear to be somewhat long, but we must not forget that gigantic works of construction which will have to be taken in hand cannot be completed overnight. Sir, I have done as far as my explanatory remarks are concerned and I shall now proceed to move for grants put down on the Order Paper.

DEMAND No. 1—RAILWAY BOARD

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,78,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,78,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947 in respect of 'Railway Board'."

Mr. S. Guruswami (Nominated Non-Official): I should like to oppose the demand for the grant made by the Honourable Member for Railways because of the reference he has made to the agreement between the Railway Department and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and this has not been implemented in full. I should like to point out Sir that in June last when this country was faced with the threat of an all-India strike with the connivance of the members of the Railway Finance Standing Committee pressing was brought to bear upon the workers to withdraw their substantial demands and one of the points of agreement whereby the Railwaymen's Federation should withdraw their strike notice and that there should be no inter-union relief.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. I must inform the Honourable Member that when a supplementary sum is asked for, questions of policy cannot be discussed. The only thing that can be discussed is whether on its merits this particular grant can be sanctioned. But to discuss the policy of the Railway Board or whether it should remain in existence these are matters that can be discussed at the time of the budget. But if the Honourable Member is going to say anything why this particular demand should not be granted, he may do so.

Mr. S. Guruswami: I am not discussing the general policy of the Railway Board but their failure to implement the agreement reached between the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the Board. My objection to this grant is based on this. The Board agreed to implement a certain agreement.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member is again going into the same position.

Mr. S. Guruswami: Very well, Sir, I shall not quarrel about words. But I shall take this opportunity to point out a big *interim* which has not been mentioned by the Honourable the Railway Member. He failed to point out that the interim relief has not been granted to those who were in railway service between July 1945 and 1st August 1946. This is failure No. 1.

No. 2 is this. He has failed to give the benefit to several thousands of railwaymen who have been designated by him as casual labourers. On the Great Indian Peninsula Railway their number is 26 000. Perhaps the men involved in this category would come to nearly a lakh on all Railways and these men are deprived of dearness allowance. They are deprived of the benefits of the grain shops and also of the benefits of the interim relief. In these two respects—by the failure to give the interim relief to these railwaymen who served the railways between 1st June 1945 and the 1st August 1946, in spite of the representation made by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, and by the failure of the Railway Board to give to those already in service and those who were in service from 1st July 1945, the Railway Board has been guilty of failure to observe the agreement. Not only that, they assured the All-India Railwaymen's Federation that there would be no retrenchments during the period of adjudication.

Mr. Deputy President: I am afraid the Honourable Member is beating about the bush. I have informed him that he cannot discuss the failure or otherwise of the Railway Board on a supplementary grant. He can do that at the time of the Budget Session. But here now he can say whether this expenditure which the Railway Board has incurred is unnecessary or should not be allowed on certain grounds, and he can throw it out. But the question of policy, whether the Railway Board has failed to do certain other things which were in their power to do, that does not come up at this time. That has been the ruling in this House for many years.

Mr. S. Guruswami: My point is that the supplementary grant is intended in respect of the Railway Board. They do not deserve the grant that they have asked for for the failure to implement the agreement that was reached between the Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board.

The third point which I was developing was this, that there was an agreement to suspend retrenchment during the pendency of the adjudication. I have received a complaint from the B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen that they propose to close the Wagon Erection Workshops at Mahalakshmi. Nearly 600 men are to lose their jobs, because of the decision of the Railway to stop the works. You are talking of developing wagon construction and what are you doing here? You are closing down the workshops in Mahalakshmi. Is this the way of developing wagon construction in India?

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member is making a speech and probably he may be right in what he says but I can give him permission to speak when the question comes up under working expenses or expenses of the traffic department or he may speak when the Miscellaneous item comes up.

Mr. S. Guruswami: Sir, all this is due to the violation of the agreement reached with the Railwaymen's Federation. I have mentioned three important points which require explanation if the Honourable Member for Railways wants a willing vote for the supplementary demand which he has moved.

Sreejunt Bohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley, Non-Muhammadan). Sir, if the Honourable Member in charge of the Railways comes to know more of the affairs in his department he will be shocked by one singular fact that one province in this sub-continent of India has been entirely excluded so far as representation in the railway services is concerned. There is only one officer coming from that province and that officer happened to be appointed because he was already in the Assam Bengal Railway, when it was a company-managed railway and was subsequently brought under the control of the State. Since then no officer has been appointed from that province at all. Not to speak of an officer.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. The Honourable Member must understand my ruling. I have explained the distinction. This point can be raised at the time of the budget and then the Honourable Member will be perfectly in order to say that a particular grant should not be made, on account of the grievances which he has got. But once having agreed that the Railway

[Mr. Deputy President]

Board must expend and this having been done, the House is only asked for its sanction to the extra expenditure, which has come before the House in the shape of a supplementary demand. Members may be perfectly in order when they say that this extra expenditure should not be granted on the ground that it is not being properly utilised or is being used for objectionable purposes but they will not be in order if they discuss another matter of policy.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, these grants are now being asked for on account of the pay of officers, who have been appointed during recent months, that is to say, after the budget was passed and I say that this amount should not be given, because these appointments have been made in contravention of the policy which ought to be adopted by the Railway Board. I shall be told in reply that appointments on the railway are not made on a territorial basis but on a communal basis. I grant it but is it possible for anybody to believe that even on a communal basis one province alone should be entirely excluded from consideration? Is it conceivable for anybody to believe that a province which has carried on its administration with credit as an autonomous province and a province which has led the way of suffering that province is incompetent to produce really competent men? Can anyone believe that? My submission is that there is a ring of officers who are in charge of filling up these posts and they give these appointments to their relations.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: On a point of order, Sir, I am unable to understand why this debate is proceeding, because if Honourable Members will look at the memorandum in their hands they will realise in respect of which particular item this sum is required and I do not see how we can go round that limit.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I say one word, Sir, as regards this point of order. The Honourable Member made a speech lasting for over 15 minutes. May I ask him on what item he made that speech? He made a general statement concerning all items and when we are now speaking he asks on what item we are speaking. It is not a fair question to ask. He made a fairly long statement despite the impatience of the House to get to the next item on the programme. He took up the time of the House and made a long general statement and nobody objected but he objects to other people making general statements.

Mr. Deputy President: I think the Honourable Member for Railways is perfectly right in pointing out to the House that on page 12 of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, dated the 6th November, 1946 which has been circulated to Honourable Members, the purposes for which this demand has been asked have been clearly given. Any Honourable Member going beyond this will not be in order.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, the matter is of very recent occurrence and it has occurred subsequent to the passing of the budget. The Railway was taken over by the Government now. While the railway was under company management the company was more sympathetic to the people of the province than what the Government is now. There were people of the province employed in that railway and they were all transferred to Calcutta thus causing great inconvenience to them.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, Order. I am afraid the Honourable Member must know the distinction which I have very clearly made. These things can come only at the time of the budget. Supplementary grants only refer to certain items of expenditure and if an Honourable Member objects to certain items, that they should not have been granted or that certain posts should not have been excluded, then of course he will be perfectly in order. This is not the time to discuss the whole policy of the Railway Board or its failure to discharge its duty. It should not be done at the time of the supplementary grants but at the time of the Railway Budget. That has been the ruling many times in this House as Honourable Member must be aware.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, could you not make any allowance for a new Member?

Mr. Deputy President: For the guidance of new members I have explained the position at this length, so that they may know how to proceed. It is the business of the House with which the Chair is concerned and the Chair has to keep up order and to conduct the proceedings according to the rules and Standing Orders.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I want to take only two minutes on the question of interim relief.

The Honourable Mr. Asaf Ali: Interim relief is covered by working expenses all over. There are so many items.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Therefore, Sir, I want your guidance. They are spread all over and I think my friend Mr. Guruswami was right in making a sort of general statement in reply to the Honourable Member. I want to speak only for two minutes on that question, if you will permit me, I shall speak now, or if you permit me later, I shall speak then, as that item is spread over all demands.

Mr. Deputy President: I think the Honourable Member will be in order in speaking on 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, the trouble has started because the Honourable Member for Railways began a novel practice—instead of moving one demand and inviting criticism on that whether of policy or on financial grounds, he prefaced the whole thing by a long speech raising many points, and this has occasioned criticism from several sections of the House. I want your ruling, Mr. Deputy President, that the criticism of members should be confined to the items actually moved or to whatever has been referred to by the Honourable Member in his speech.

Mr. Deputy President: When making his speech, the Honourable Member tried to make a speech on all items at once and then he reserved only the moving of the items one by one as he did not like to make a speech on every item and support it by facts.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division Muhammadan Rural). No more speeches, Sir. The question may now be put.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural). May I submit that the Honourable Member's speech helped us very much to understand exactly what the items are? We are spending about 27 crores by way of supplementary expenditure, and you and I, Sir, in the Standing Finance Committee voted to the tune of Rs. 9 crores spread over a number of these items. I thought any of our friends might be allowed an opportunity to say what he thought regarding that item. As regards the manufacture of locomotives, we know the Honourable Member is in earnest and wants to speed it up, that also is spread over a number of items. As regards the High Power Committee, the Honourable Member gave a resume of what is contained in the various demands, and I thought some of our friends who are taking interest in this matter would appreciate the speech. There is no limit if each one of us goes on speaking on each item. Instead of that, one of our friends will take up each item and make a few observations. If you will permit me I will say a few words about it. (Some Honourable Members: No, no!) We are not sitting tomorrow and hence we may have to sit for a few minutes after five. I am trying to avoid discussion. 27 crores is not a small matter, and if you will permit I will finish in ten or seven minutes.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member wants to speak on what?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In respect of such matters as come under these items I will give an undertaking that I will not speak on any other matters. After all the Chair is entitled to devise methods of procedure for proper conduct of business and it has got extraordinary power too.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) On a point of order, Sir, you may follow any procedure on the present occasion, but that procedure should not be allowed to become a precedent. A ruling must be given that whatever procedure is followed now should not be a precedent for the future. This is developing into a general debate.

Mr. Deputy President: I have given my ruling that the debate must be confined to the items of expenditure, and in discussing supplementary grants members are not entitled to review the general policy of the department. They can do so only at the time of the general budget. But now they should confine themselves to the items of supplementary expenditure, whether they agree with it or not. That has been the practice hitherto followed and it is laid down in May's Parliamentary Practice and I have been shown several rulings to this effect. Every Honourable Member has got a copy with him and they know it well. But here as the Honourable Member has already made one speech, another member says he wants to make a speech once and will not speak on any other item. So, I say that can be allowed.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I shall confine myself to the demands and to the excess or new demands that have come into existence. First of all, I would have wished—you and I, Sir, were all members of the Standing Finance Committee—that having regard to various items of importance that come up before the Standing Finance Committee, the Honourable Member himself will hereafter preside. There is nothing out of the way in my suggestion. Any member of the government who is nominated can be the Chairman. Hitherto the Financial Adviser has been the Chairman. We are beating the air there. The Financial Commissioners cannot lay down policy and these big items involve policy. I would make that suggestion for the acceptance of government after full consideration.

Then, as regards dearness allowance, costing nearly Rs 9 crores, we are certainly obliged to our honourable friend, Mr. Guruswami, for having averted a crisis which would otherwise have occurred, also honourable members and the Standing Finance Committee and all others co-operated in averting that great calamity and disaster. As regards the distribution of this Rs 9 crores, the policy was laid down by the Standing Finance Committee. Unfortunately the Railway Board to this day consists not entirely of our own nationals. Other nationals take a different view, and I will not be satisfied until this is entirely managed by Indian nationals from top to bottom. Friction has arisen. We have given nine crores but in distributing it why should there be any trouble? There is friction there. My honourable friend, who tried to co-operate with us, in the Finance Committee and outside also, would have been easily satisfied by small adjustments here and there. That is exactly what he wants. But if there is trouble he can go and start a strike tomorrow. It is not worthwhile to quarrel with Mr. Guruswami. I am not instigating him. I am only advising government and the Railway Board in particular not to allow small differences to exist where we have tried to do away with major differences.

I would like to say one word. We have agreed that when the Pay Commission decide this matter it will have retrospective effect and we also suggested that the Pay Commission should be requested to dispose of the salaries and wages of railwaymen first, as the first item. But no steps have been taken so far, they have put it off to the end. I do not know when it is coming on. It is up to the Railway Board and the Honourable Member to insist on the Pay Commission taking up this matter first and disposing of it, because we have agreed that we will give retrospective effect to whatever recommendations are made, whereas the rest of the Government of India have not made any such commitment. There is an overhanging burden upon us and therefore the government must take note.

As regards these grain shops, it has become a sink-pit. I am told the richer men are taking advantage of it. Various articles which the ordinary people do not want are being purchased. We have tried to vote and give 14 crores on account of the higher cost of materials—we are spending 14 odd crores

over these grain shops they have become sunk pits and the sooner they are closed the better, the sooner the higher charges are given and the basic pay is fixed, the better for us. We will know exactly and the workmen will also know actually what they ought to get, instead of this round-about manner which does not count at all.

As regards the High Power Committee, I am glad that the Honourable Member has announced that a very experienced and able parliamentarian, a gentleman who knows the details of the work and has served on various committees, Mr Neogy, is going to be the chairman of the High Power Committee. As you know that is intended for the purpose of implementing what decisions are taken by this Pay Commission. They may say that the basic salary shall be increased, in which case we must make both ends meet and curtail unnecessary expenditure in various ways, we must also try to produce all the various articles needed and to advise on steps to economise expenditure on railway administration. The sooner it comes and begins to work the better. I would only urge that the Honourable Member should not find talent only outside the Assembly but also try to find inside the Assembly also for this business. So far as the manufacture of locomotives in the country is concerned, I would urge upon the Honourable Member to go to England himself and see things for himself. It only takes two days to go and two days to come back. He can very well spend a week there and find out in what ways real progress can be made so that we need not wait for three years. He can see what instructions can be given to the High Commissioner and other officers so that they can push the thing through as early as possible.

As regards coal, there is an excess in the fuel expenditure. There is a recommendation by my Honourable friend Mr Neogy as a member of the Coal Committee that all the coal fields should be purchased by the State, so that in the matter of fuel the railways may be self-sufficient, which we are not now.

As regards surveys the previous government had its own view. We are spending 17 lakhs under the head Surveys. During the war a number of lines were dismantled. Instead of restoring the old lines in consultation with the Local Governments, new lines have been surveyed. I would say that this item may be curtailed. The previous provincial governments did not really voice the views of the community. Other agencies might be adopted or the present Governments may be consulted in regard to the surveys of new lines. I would ask the Railway Board to consult the popular Governments afresh before other surveys are proceeded with.

There is the question also of loss of goods in transit. The station master and the guard and the other persons in charge should be made responsible. In the matter of wagon supply, I would like to state that when I presided over a conference of railwaymen, one of them said 'What am I to do when overnight they give Rs 200 for getting a wagon. How can I refuse this amount?' Under the company managed system they were paying less. They wanted the railway servants to make as much money as possible from the general public. The Honourable Member, I take it, would like to put a stop to corruption as quickly as possible. The quality of the administration depends on the decrease in the loss on transit. Mungoes are sent and they are stolen. Somebody eats them away at the other end or on the way. The test will be how far my Honourable friend during his term of office will be able to curtail this item of unnecessary waste to the tune of a crore and a half.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am very grateful to my friend Mr Ayyangar for speaking a word in favour of railwaymen.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am always with you.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Government got a settlement of the strike which was likely to take place at that time very cheap. The credit is not due to the Government of India. It is due to the fact that at that time there was a critical political situation in the country and the railwaymen did not like to

[Mr N M Joshi] complicate that political situation and therefore they accepted the terms offered to them by the Government of India on the advice of the Standing Finance Committee. The Government of India should not take advantage of that fact and refuse to give interim relief to people who deserve it. At present as my Honourable friend Mr Guruswami has stated, that interim relief is not given to what they call daily rated men. This term daily rated is wrongly used. These daily rated men have been serving for years on the daily rate. I do not know why they are called daily rated. They work in the same workshop for years together and on the ground that they are daily rated and temporary, they are not given any interim relief. I would like the Government to remove this injustice. It might cost a little more but that cost is worth incurring. Secondly if there are any closures of workshops causing retrenchment, I would point out that the Government of India have given their word to the railwaymen that they will not cause any retrenchment for some time. I would therefore like the Honourable Member to give his earnest attention to these matters and even though it may cost something more, he should satisfy the railwaymen as regards the interim relief.

Mr. I. S. Puri (Government of India Nominated Official) I will only deal with two points that have been raised today—one is about interim relief and the other is about the survey expenditure.

As regards interim relief, my friend Mr. Joshi, I think, misunderstood the position when he said that those who are called daily rated men have not been given any relief. The order which was issued in August 1946 provided that the Governor General in Council had been pleased to sanction with retrospective effect from 1st July 1946, a temporary addition to pay of Rs 4/8 per mensem to each monthly rated railway servant in receipt of pay not exceeding Rs 250 per mensem, and of 2 annas 9 pies per day to each daily rated servant. So the daily rated men were entitled to relief in the same way as the monthly rated staff. The point raised by my friend Mr. Guruswami was that those men who were not in service at the time that the interim relief was sanctioned, that is 1st August 1946, were not getting the interim relief. This point was the subject of a question in this House and the Honourable the Railway Member gave the reason why the Government did not find it possible to extend the concession to those who had left the service at the time that the interim relief was sanctioned. The object of the interim relief, as was explained by the Honourable Member, was that those in service should get some lump sum by way of relief. This consideration did not hold in the case of those who had already left the service and there were also practical difficulties in the way. This question was raised, I may mention, by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation when they discussed the matter with the Railway Board and the position was made clear to them and the Railway Board at that time understood that the Railwaymen's Federation had accepted the position as reasonable.

As regards the survey, the position is that all these surveys have been undertaken in respect of railway lines which the various provincial Governments wanted and wherever the new meters have asked for projects to be undertaken, the Railway Board have undertaken to survey those lines. Either these lines are already under survey or their surveys will be undertaken when the staff who are engaged on other surveys are free.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 3,78,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No 2—AUDIT

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I beg to move.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,68,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Audit'."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,68,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 3—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 19,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 19,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 6-A—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE OF STRUCTURAL WORKS

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,37,75,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works'."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,37,75,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No 6-B—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY OF
LOCOMOTIVE POWER

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,44,60,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power'."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,44,60,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power'."

The motion was adopted

DEMAND No 6-C—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGE AND WAGON
STOCK

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I beg to move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,48,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Carriage and Wagon Stock'."

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,48,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Carriage and Wagon Stock'."

Mr. S. Guruswami: Sir, I should like to oppose this grant because I have received no explanation in regard to the point that I raised that the wagon workshop at Mahalakshmi is to be closed shortly and thousands of men who are working there are to lose their jobs. I have received no explanation on that point. The Financial Commissioner for Railways replied only to the point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi about the daily rated staff. There has been some misunderstanding on that point. The point that I raised was not about the daily rated staff but about those who are treated under the category of Works charges—Establishment, who are denied the benefit of the interim relief and who are now in service and who have been in service from 1st of July 1945. In spite of the fact that they have been continuously in service for several months they have been deprived of the benefit of the interim relief. I have received no explanation from the Financial Commissioner for Railways why these men who are still in service have been deprived of this interim relief. Their number runs into thousands. In the G.I.P. Railway alone their number exceeds 26,000. This is a gross violation of the agreement between these men and the Government, and I would request the Financial Commissioner for Railways, who has been in touch with this question from the beginning and who knows also that there has been a representation from the Federation on this point, to give a satisfactory answer if he wants a willing vote from our side.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I have noted the fact that my Honourable friend Mr. Guruswami has always been a vigorous advocate of labour and railwaymen and I am perfectly certain that he is now trying to justify his reputation, otherwise I have always found him extremely helpful. In fact, when the South Indian Railway strike was going on, I found him much more helpful than I had ever expected him to be. The point which he has now raised, I am afraid, is somewhat beside the relevant question which we might have debated here. I am not aware of a single railwayman who is in the service of the Railways and who has not received the interim relief.

Mr. S. Guruswami: On a point of explanation.

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I do not give way. The only persons who are not in receipt and who cannot receive any interim relief are those who are no longer in the service of the Railways. Do you want us to make a hunt for these gentlemen all over India and find out who were in the service of the Railways at a particular date and then go to their houses and say, "Now, will you kindly take this dose?", I cannot understand the logic of those who want the money to be paid to those who are no longer railwaymen. Therefore, I regret to say that I cannot possibly accept the suggestion which has been made by Mr. Guruswami on that point.

Coming to the next question namely, the closing down of a particular workshop, I am not aware of any workshop which is going to be closed down unless people initiate a go-slow-programme and, if they do, I certainly will see that everyone of them is chucked out.

(Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai got up to speak.)

Mr. Deputy President: Does the Honourable Member want to speak? The Government Member has already spoken.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowner's Association Indian Commerce). Yes, Sir; only on a point of information. I would like to know whether a man who was in employment when these people were paid this interim relief should be paid or should not be paid? Anybody who has served has been paid and whatever has been paid to others must be paid to him also,

just as the bonus or the increased dearness allowance or any other kind of payment that has been paid to others ought to be paid to him also

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, this is not a point on which any information is really asked for because my learned friend is a Member of the Central Pay Commission and he ought to know these matters much better than I do. He has examined this question from day to day.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

'That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 6,48,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Carriage and Wagon Stock'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO 6-E—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 3,41,51,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department'."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 3,41,51,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO 6-F—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF GENERAL DEPARTMENTS

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 1,19,31,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of General Department'."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 1,19,31,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of General Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO 6-G—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 4,02,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 4,02,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO 6-H—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I move

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 83,77,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Electrical Department'."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 83,77,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1947, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Electrical Department'."

The motion was adopted

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Now that the Demands for supplementary grants are over, it is the general desire of the House to adjourn the House now.

The Honourable Mr. Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member) My Bill will take only ten minutes and if the House should sit for a little time longer, my Bill will be finished

Mr. Deputy President: Unless some Honourable Member on behalf of Government says that no further business of the House is going to be moved, I have got to go through the agenda as it is before the House. It is the duty of the Chair to carry on Government Business

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The House can sit for half an hour more and transact the labour legislation.

Mr. Deputy President: It is for the Honourable the Leader of the House to say whether he wants no more Business to be put through

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): Only four minutes more are left for five of the Clock and the House will not be able to do much within that time

Mr. Deputy President: It seems to be the general desire that no more business should be taken up. The House will now adjourn

The Assembly then adjourned *sine die*.

APPENDIX

[Vide page 1237 ante]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

New Delhi, the 9th February, 1946

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

No 3—Camp.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

In the Table set forth under sub-rule (2) of rule 176 of the said Rules for item (iii) in the second column against the entry (f) in the first column the following entries shall be substituted, namely:—

- "(ii) more than one hundred but not more than five hundred standard maunds.—Two.
- (iv) one hundred standard maunds or less.—Eight annas"

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 6th April 1946

No 3—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made to the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely:—

To sub-rule (1) of rule 181 of the said Rules, the following shall be added:—

"or has been convicted of an offence under section 161, read with section 100 or with section 116, of the Indian Penal Code".

H. GREENFIELD, Joint Secy.

3/C No 9/7-CX/45.

Copy forwarded to —
 All Collectors of Central Excise,
 The Political Department,
 The External Affairs Department;
 The Secretary to the Government of Sind (Revenue Department),
 The Director of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics for publication in the Indian Trade Journal; and
 The Inspectorate of Customs and Central Excises.

By order, etc.,

W. A. ROSE,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
 FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

New Delhi, the 20th July 1946

No 6—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely

A In the said Rules —

I In rules 58, 60 and 61, for the words 'splints and veneers', wherever they occur, the words "splints, veneers, and composition for match heads" shall be substituted

II In clause (a) of sub rule (1) of rule 174, for the words "and of splints and veneers" the words "splints, veneers and composition for match heads" shall be substituted

III To item 2 of the Table annexed to rule 176, the following shall be added, namely —
 ' (c) composition for match heads one hundred "

B In Appendix I to the said Rules in Form R G 2 (Central Excise Series No 39)—

(a) for the words "splints and veneers", wherever they occur, the words "splints, veneers and composition for match heads" shall be substituted, and

(b) for the word "Timber", the words "Timber/Composition for match heads" shall be substituted

H GREENFIELD, Joint Secy

6/C No 22/17-CX/46

Copy forwarded to all Collectors of Central Excise, the Secretary to the Government of Sind, Revenue Department, the Political and External Affairs Department, the Inspectorate of Customs and Central Excises and the Chief Officer, Intelligence and Statistics

By order, etc.,

P K SARKAR,

for Under Secretary to the Government of India,

OF INDIA,

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 2nd February 1946.

No. 1-Camp—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the North Orissa Salt (Village Manufacture and Storage) Rules, 1943, namely:—

In sub-rule (1) of rule 10 of the said Rules, for the word "contractor" the words "Government of Orissa" shall be substituted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

NOTIFICATION

Salt

New Delhi, the 9th February 1946

No 2 Camp—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause XVII of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944) and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues) No 27-Salt, dated the 1st October 1927, the Central Government is pleased to remit the duty imposed under subsection (1) of section 3 of the said Act, on salt manufactured in or imported by sea or land into the Province of Bombay, when such salt is used ~~within~~ the said Province or with the special approval of the Central Government in any other place, for any industrial purpose other than the preparation of refined salt or as an ingredient or preservative in any article of food or drink subject to the following rules—

1 Any person intending to use salt in an industrial process (hereinafter referred to as the manufacturer) and wishing to be admitted to the concession shall make an application to the Collector of Central Excise, Bombay, stating the process of manufacture in which he intends to use the salt and the approximate quantity of salt required in the year. If he wishes the concession to extend to more than one factory or works, a separate application must be made for each such factory or works, even if they are situated in the same premises.

2 Any person having his factory or works in an Indian State adjoining the territorial jurisdiction of the Collector and intending to use salt manufactured in or imported by sea or land into the Province of Bombay shall submit his application to the Collector through the Political Officer of the State concerned and all such applications shall be referred by the Collector of the Central Government for sanction.

3 The Central Government or the Collector while sanctioning an application may, if necessary, fix the maximum quantity of salt upto which refund of duty may be allowed in a year. The sanctioning authority may fix different maximum limits for different factories or works run by a manufacturer. The limit so fixed may be varied from time to time by the sanctioning authority.

4 If the application is sanctioned, the manufacturer shall forthwith execute and lodge with the Chief Accounts Officer, Central Excise Collectorate, Bombay, an agreement in Form B appended to these rules. He shall also pay to the aforesaid Collector a supervision fee of Rs 100 to cover the cost of inspection and any other departmental expenses involved. Provided that if the concession is granted after six months of a financial year have expired, the supervision fee payable for the said year shall be Rs 50 and that if the full annual fee of Rs 100 has been paid and a concession is surrendered before the expiry of six months of a financial year or in the case of a new grantee, within six months of the grant, Rs 50 shall be refunded.

5 The rebate of duty will be allowed on salt used on and from the date of payment of the supervision fee into the Treasury or from the date of execution of the agreement whichever is later.

6 After the execution of the agreement, the manufacturer shall in the first instance provide himself with duty paid salt either from (1) a Government salt-store, or agency depots in Gujarat, or (2) a licensee of a private salt works or (3) a firm of salt dealers approved by the Collector of Central Excise, Bombay. At the close of each quarter the manufacturer shall submit an application for the refund of duty on the salt used, supported by the receipt in Form C of the firm of approved salt dealers or the agency depot from which salt has been purchased or by the salt removal permit in Form D in the case of salt obtained from a licensee of a private salt-works or by the certificate in Form F in the case of salt obtained from a Government Salt-store. Forms "C", "D" and "F" are appended to these rules.

7 No refund of duty shall be allowed unless an application for such refund reaches the officer of the Central Excise Collectorate appointed in accordance with rule 10 below, within three months of the close of the relevant quarter.

8 For the purpose of these rules, duty on salt purchased in the market shall be deemed to have been paid at the rate in force on the date of purchase.

9 (1) The application for the refund of duty shall contain the following particulars—

(i) The balance of salt in store at the beginning of the quarter.

(ii) The quantity of salt purchased during the quarter.

(iii) The quantity of salt used during the quarter, and the quantity on which a refund of duty is applied for.

(iv) The balance of salt in hand at the close of the quarter
 (v) The quantity, weight and such other details of products manufactured during the quarter as may be required by the Assistant Collector of Central Excise of the sub-division hereinafter referred to as the Assistant Collector

(vi) A declaration stating the product manufactured and the name and situation of the factory or works, and that the salt on which a refund is applied for has been used bona fides by the applicant in the process of manufacture of such product at such factory or works

(2) The particulars entered in accordance with clauses (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) of sub-rule (1) shall distinguish between salt on which duty has been paid, or is deemed under rule 8 to have been paid, at different rates

10 The application for the refund of duty shall be sent to the officer of the Central Excise Collectorate appointed in this behalf who shall after verifying the figures forward it to the aforesaid Assistant Collector for disposal

11 The manufacturer shall provide and set apart, for the storage of the salt purchased for use in the factory, a store-room which shall be to the satisfaction of the Assistant Collector, securely constructed and fitted with a strong door capable of being locked. Salt manufactured in the Province and salt imported shall be stored separately in the store-room as also shall salt on which duty has been paid or is under rule 8 deemed to have been paid, at different rates

12 Each consignment of salt procured under this concession shall be stored separately in the store-room and distinctively marked, and the applicant shall not use any goods from any such consignment until all the salt previously procured has been expended and entered as expended in his accounts

13 (1) The store room shall not be opened except between the hours of sunrise and sunset, and then only for one of the following purposes, namely —

- (a) for the receipt of salt into the store,
- (b) for the preparation by grinding or for the issue of salt required for purposes connected with manufacture,
- (c) to allow the stock of salt to be checked by weighment or otherwise by officers of the Central Excise Collectorate

(2) The store room shall not be opened except by or in the presence of the Manager of the factory or the store keeper of the factory, the latter shall retain the key of the store room in his own possession provided that when the store-keeper is away from the premises of the factory or works, he shall leave the key with the Manager

(3) The key of the store room shall be available at the premises of the factory to facilitate inspection of the store room by the officer of the Central Excise Collectorate, Bombay, not below the rank of Range Officer, at any time between the hours of sunrise and sunset failing which the manufacturers shall be liable to a fine not exceeding rupees one hundred for each occasion the inspecting officer has to return without being able to inspect the store-room

14 All spent-lye or other useless refuse containing salt shall be effectually destroyed on or near the premises in such manner as the Collector of Central Excise, Bombay, may direct

15 The factory or works may be entered and examined at any time by any officer of the Bombay Central Excise Collectorate not below the rank of a Range Officer authorised by the Assistant Collector, or by any officer of the Central Excise Collectorate of a province other than Bombay who may be especially empowered in this behalf by the Central Board of Revenue or by an officer of the Baroda State empowered in this behalf by the Darbar in respect of factories or works situated within that State, and due facilities for examining the manufacturers salt register as well as for checking the stock of salt received, expended and in hand, shall be afforded by the Manager and all servants of the manufacturer. Salt shall be stored in the bags in which it is received from the salt-works or depot and the bags shall be arranged in tiers so as to facilitate checking and weighment

16 The register referred to in rule 15 shall be written up daily and signed by the Manager or Store-keeper and shall be in Form A hereto annexed. Separate register shall be maintained for salt manufactured in the Province of Bombay and for imported salt

17 The Manager of the factory shall furnish the Assistant Collector through the officer of the Central Excise Collectorate appointed by him for the purpose with a monthly statement to be posted by the 10th of each following month, showing the opening balance of salt at the beginning of the month, the quantity purchased during the month, the quantity expended during the month, the balance at the close of the month and the weight or quantity or other particulars required by the Assistant Collector of the production during the month of the article for which the salt was used. The manufacturer's book showing the weight or quantity of the article dealt with and of the product manufactured shall be open at any time to the inspection of any officer of the Central Excise Collectorate not below the rank of a Range Officer.

18. (1) On any breach of these rules by the manufacturer, or there being reason to believe that the concession of rebate of duty on the salt used by the said manufacturer is

being otherwise abused, the Collector shall be competent to impose a preventive establishment at the cost and expense of the manufacturer, or to cancel or withdraw the concession granted under these rules, and to forfeit the amount of inspection fee deposited for the year, and the manufacturer shall on demand refund all duty, the remission of which shall have been wrongfully claimed and sanctioned

Provided that in the case of persons to whom the concession has been granted by the Central Government under rule 2 of these rules, the Collector shall obtain the Central Government's previous approval before taking any action under this clause

(ii) The manufacturer shall also be responsible for any loss or damage that may be occasioned by the breach of rules referred to in clause (i) above

19 Any person who may be dissatisfied with an order passed by the Assistant Collector under these rules may appeal to the Collector of Central Excise, Bombay, and any person who may be dissatisfied with an order passed by the Collector of Central Excise, Bombay, under these rules may appeal to the Central Board of Revenue

FORM "A"

SALT REGISTER

(See rule 16)

Register of salt purchased, expended and in store together with the weight or quantity of products manufactured

Date	Opening balance of salt	Quantity of salt received into Store	Total quantity of salt in hand	Quantity of salt used and expended	Closing balance of salt	Quantity or weight of products manufactured	Manager's signature	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

FORM "B"

AGREEMENT—(Rule 4.)

AN AGREEMENT made the _____ day of _____
 BETWEEN _____ carrying on the trade or business of _____
 at _____ under the name and style of _____ (hereinafter referred to as "the manufacturer" which expression shall unless excluded by or repugnant to the context include his heirs, executors, administrator and assigns) of the one part and the Governor-General in Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Governor General" which expression shall unless excluded by or repugnant to the context include his successors in office and assigns) of the other part

WHEREAS the manufacturer has applied to the Governor-General for remission of the duty on salt used in the manufacture of _____ AND WHEREAS the Governor-General has agreed to grant the said application in consideration of the manufacturer executing these presents and performing and observing the conditions hereinafter mentioned NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES HERETO AS FOLLOWS—

(1) The manufacturer shall be bound by and observe the rules for the time being in force for the remission of duty on salt issued for industrial purposes

(2) The salt in respect of which a refund is claimed shall *bona fide* have been used for the purposes of _____ in the manufacturer's factory at _____ and shall not at any time be used for any other purpose

(3) The manufacturer shall pay the sum of one hundred rupees (Rs 100/-) on 1st April every year to the Central Excise Collectorate, Bombay, to cover the costs of inspection and other departmental expenses at such time and place and in such manner as the collector of Central Excise, Bombay, may prescribe in this behalf.

Provided that if the manufacturer be admitted to a concession both in regard to imported salt and also in regard to manufactured salt, not more than a single such fee of Rs 100 shall be payable for each factory at work

Provided that if the concession is granted after six months of a financial year have expired, the supervision fee payable for the said year shall be Rs 50 (Fifty only) and that if the full annual fee of Rs 100 (one hundred only) has been paid and the concession is surrendered before the expiry of six months of a financial year or, in the case of new guarantee within six months of the grant, Rs 50 (fifty only) shall be refunded

(4) If in the opinion of the Governor-General any default in the performance of or breach of the conditions herein contained and on the part of the manufacturer to be performed and observed has occurred the Governor-General may require as a condition of the continuance of this agreement that the manufacturer shall in addition to the moneys payable under clause 3 pay such further sum as may be fixed by the Governor-General for the maintenance of a preventive establishment at the aforesaid factory and that the manufacturer shall refund any duty remitted for any quarter in which such breach or default shall have occurred or continued

(5) On the determination of this agreement under the provisions of clause 4 the manufacturer shall not be entitled to any refund for the quarter in which such determination shall have occurred, and shall be bound to refund any duty remitted for any quarter in which any breach or default as aforesaid shall have occurred or continued and shall be responsible for any loss or damage incurred by reason of any breach or default as aforesaid

(6) The manufacturer performing and observing the conditions of this agreement, shall be entitled to a refund of salt duty to the extent and in the manner and on the conditions prescribed in the aforesaid rules for such period as the Governor-General shall choose to continue this concession

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said manufacturer hath hereunto set his hand and
Collector of Central Excise, Bombay, hath by order of the
Honourable the Governor-General in Council set his hand and the seal of his office the
day and year first above written

Signed by

Esquire,

in the presence of

1

2

Signed, sealed and
delivered by

Esquire,

Collector of Central Excise, Bombay, for and
on behalf of the Governor-General in Council
in the presence of

1

2

FORM "C"

Form of receipt in case of salt purchased from a firm of approved dealers or agency depot.

(Rule 6)

Received from _____ the sum of Rs. _____ in payment for maunds of full duty paid salt purchased for use in his/their factory at _____
Date _____ Signature of Approved Dealer/Agent. . . Depot.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FORM "D"

[19TH Nov. 1946]

Form of permit in case of salt obtained from private salt works

(Rule 6)

Mr / Messrs _____ concessionaire(s) is/are permitted to
remove _____ maunds of salt from salt works for use in his/their factory at
Date _____

Divisional Officer

FORM 'E'

Form of certificate in respect of salt obtained from Government salt stores

(Rule 6)

Certified that wagon(s) (_____ maunds) of salt has/have been cleared
on _____, against indent No _____
dated _____ placed by Mr / Messrs _____ conces-
sionaire(s) at the treasury

Date _____

Officer in charge of the salt store

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

New Delhi, the 9th March 1946

NOTIFICATION

SALT

No 1—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944) and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues) No 5 Salt, dated the 14th February 1942, the Central Government is pleased to make the following rule—

Rule

Within the districts in Orissa to which section 37 (2) (xix) of the Central Excises and Salt Act 1944 (I of 1944) applies the transport of salt in excess of one maund in weight from any of the areas specified in the annexed Schedule into or over any part of the said districts other than the said areas is prohibited unless satisfactory proof—

(i) of the payment of duty has been adduced

or

(ii) is forthcoming that the salt in question is being transported to a warehouse or a hat' depot in accordance with the rules prescribed in the North Orissa Salt (Village Manufacture and Storage) Rules 1943

Schedule

Area lying in District—

1 Cuttack—

- (a) Union No VII of Balikuda Police Station
- (b) The whole of Essama Police Station except Union No I
- (c) Union Nos V and VI of Tirtole Police Station
- (d) The whole of Mahakalapara Police Station
- (e) Union Nos V, VI, VII of Pattamunda Police Station
- (f) Union Nos IV, V, VI, VII, VIII of Patkura Police Station
- (g) Union Nos V and VI of Kandrapara Police Station
- (h) Union No XX of Jaipur Police Station
- (i) Union No IX of Aul Police Station
- (j) The whole of Rajanagar Police Station

2. Balasore—

- (a) Union Nos III, IV, and V of Bahapal Police Station.
- (b) Union Nos I, II, III, IV, V and VI of Bhograi Police Station.
- (c) Union No VI of Basta Police Station.
- (d) Union No V of Singla Police Station.
- (e) Union Nos VI and VII of Soro Police Station.
- (f) The whole of Chandbali Police Station.
- (g) The whole of Basudebpur Police Station except Union No II.
- (h) Union Nos. VII, VIII, IX and X of Balasore Police Station except the area licensed for the manufacture of salt to the Utkal Salt and Chemical Works, Limited, described in detail in Appendix 'A' annexed hereto

3. Puri—

- (a) The whole of Krihna Prasad Police Station except the area licensed for the manufacture of salt to Messrs National Chemical and Salt Works (India), Limited, described in detail in Appendix 'B' annexed hereto
- (b) The whole of Kakatpur Police Station except the area licensed for the manufacture of salt to the Astarang Salt Manufacturers' Co-operative Society described in detail in Appendix 'C' annexed hereto
- (c) Union Nos XI, XII, XIII and XIV of Nimapara Police Station
- (d) The whole of Gope Police Station excepting the portion lying to the west of the road leading from Puri to Gope
- (e) The whole of Brahmagiri Police Station excepting Union Nos IV and VIII and the area licensed for the manufacture of salt to (i) Bhuyan Shyam Sundar Mahapatra and (ii) Dr Atal Behari Acharaya described in detail in Appendices 'D' and 'E' respectively annexed hereto
- (f) The portion of Union Nos IV, V, VI and VII of Banapur Police Station lying between Chilka Lake and the Bengal Nagpur Railway Line
- (g) The portion of Union Nos I, II, III, IV and V of Tangi Police Station lying between Chilka Lake and the Bengal Nagpur Railway Line

APPENDIX 'A'

Name of Factory	Where situated		Area		Limits (Boundaries)
	Village	Police Station, etc.	Plot No.	Area	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Talpada	Talpada.	Police Station Balasore.	From 682 " 638	8 70 16 54	North—Plot Nos. 674, 676.
The Utkal Salt and Chemical Works, Ltd.	..	District Balasore.	716 715	0 07 13 35	East—Orissa Coast Canal.
			From 681 683 668	35 40 0 39 7 05	South—Plot Nos. 540, 541.
					West—Portion of Plot No. 688.
			Total	81 50	Acres.

Name of the Factory	Where situated		Area		Limits (Boundaries).
	Village	Police station, etc.	Plot No.	Area	
1	2	3	4	5	6
National Chemical Salt Works (India) Ltd.	Khatrasahi	Revenue Thana No. 312 Paragana Parikad, Police Station Krishna Prasad.			
			125	0.26	
			127	0.19	
			128	1.26	
			129	1.18	
			130	1.57	
			131	1.69	East—13 and 126 of Khatrasahi Mouja and Chilka Lake.
			132	0.83	
			133	0.73	
			134	1.00	
			135	0.48	South—296, 297, 281, 280, 279, 278, 277, 276/610, 275, 274 of Gurubal Mouja.
			136	99	
			137	3.72	
			138	0.49	
			139	0.87	
			140	0.24	West—163, 122, 123, 124 of Khatrasahi Mouja.
			141	1.21	
			142	1.55	
			269	0.84	
			270	0.79	
			271	0.80	
			272	0.70	
			273	0.63	
			274	1.06	
			275	2.24	
			276	0.81	
			276/610	0.64	North—Khatrasahi, Plot Nos. 13 and 126 Chilka Lake.
			277	0.79	

Name of the Factory	Where situated		Area		Limits (Boundaries)
	Village	Police station, etc.	Plot No.	Area	
1	2	3	4	5	6
National Chemical Sales Works (India) Ltd.	Khatiasahi	Revenue Thana No. 312 Pargana Parikud, Police Station Krishna Prasad.	278	0.68	East—Chilka Lake. South—512 (Pada), 515. West—518, 420, 325, 322, 231, 268, 609, 177, 176, 168, 167, 166, 165, 623/163, 163 (all of Gurubai Mouza), 118, 122, 123, 124 (all of Khatiasahi Mouza).
			279	1.46	
			280	0.98	
			281	0.91	
			282	0.83	
			283	0.69	
			284	0.51	
			285	0.61	
			286	0.53	
			287	0.75	
			288	0.74	
			98	0.73	
			299	0.44	
			454	1.14	
			455	1.40	
			456	0.99	
			457	0.61	
			458	0.35	
			459	0.97	
			460	2.12	
			300	1.78	
			301	0.97	
			302	1.13	
			303	0.96	

Name of Factory	Where situated		Area						Limits (Boundaries)
	Village	Police station etc.	Plot No.	Area	Plot No.	Area	Plot No.	Area	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
National Chemical and Salt Works (India) Ltd.	Khatashai	Revenue Thana No. 312 Paragana Parikud Police Station Krishna Prasad	304	2 04	461	1 14	446	0 53	. . . As on pages 1296 and 1297.
			305	1 64	462	1 20	447	0 57	
			306	0 97	463	0 85	448	1 77	
			307	0 63	464	1 07	449	1 52	
			308	0 70	465	0 24	450	2 06	
			309	5 08	466	0 26	451	1 29	
			310	5 02	467	0 41			
			311	1 87	468	0 20	Total	230 27	
			312	1 71	469	0 46			
			313	1 54	470	0 35			
			314	1 04	471	0 67			
			315	1 05	472	0 94			
			316	1 64	473	0 83			
			317	1 22	474	0 84			
			318	1 17	475	1 02			
			319	0 98	483	0 56			
			320	0 60	484	1 24			
			330	0 91	485	0 08			
			421	0 65	486	1 23			
			422	1 32	487	4 33			
			476	0 91	488	2 59			
			477	1 61	489	1 22			
			478	1 02	490	0 03			
			479	1 56	491	1 76			
			480	1 61	492	1 00			
			481	1 52	493	3 55			
			482	0 55	494	3 28			
			423	3 13	495	2 73			
			424	3 79	496	1 87			
			425	1 79	497	1 79			

Name of Factory	Where situated		Area						Limits (Boundaries)
	Village	Police station, etc.	Plot No.	Area	Plot No.	Area	Plot No.	Area	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
National Channel Salt Works (India) Ltd.	Khaticahu	Revenue Thana No. 312, Paragana Patkud, Police Station Krishna Prasad	426	1 44	505	2 36			As on pages 1296 and 1297.
			427	2 42	506	1 46			
			428	1-29	507	1 36			
			429	1 24	508	1-43			
			430	1 16	509	0-78			
			431	1-00	510	0 63			
			432	7 21	511	1-38			
			433	1-40	512	2 51			
			434	4 11	289	0 65			
			435	2 61	290	0 65			
			436	1 19	291	0-73			
			437	2 02	292	0 64			
			438	3 95	293	0 94			
			439	0 52	294	1 08			
			440	3 05	295	1 43			
			441	1-41	296	1 24			
			442	0-50	297	1 58			
			442/322	0 38	321	0 87			
			452	1-20	322	0 69			
			453	1-29	323	1-56			
			490	0 92	324	1-37			
			490	2-02	325	0 76			
			500	2-14	326	1-20			
			501	1-78	327	1 17			
			502	1-03	328	1 57			
			503	1-14	329	0 29			
			504	1-14	443	0 38			
					444	4 06			
					445	0-69			

Name of Factory	Where situated		Area				Limits (Boundaries)
	Village	Police station, etc.	Plot No.	Area	Plot No.	Area	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Astarang	Astarang	Revenue Thana No. 191 Pargana Astarang, Police Station- Kakat- pur, District Puri	1077	1.40	..	...	North—Plot No 1068.
			1078 (Portion)	0.44			East—Plot Nos. 1071, 1072, 1076, 1081.
							South—Plot Nos. 1080, Portion of 1078
							West—1039
			1199	2.60	...		North—Plot No. 1118.
							East—Village Road adjoining to Plot Nos. 1020, 1198, 1197.
							South—Portion of Plot No. 1199, 1397, 1398, 1399.
							West—Plot Nos. 1200, 1201, 1202.
			1585	0.25	2110	1.10	North—Plot Nos. of village Astarang :—
			1586	4.80	2111	24.10	
			1587	5.00	2112	0.85	
			1594	1.18	2113	10.70	
			1595	4.20	2114	0.46	Portion of 1587
			1596	6.03	2115	1.90	" " 1596
			2103	0.25	2116	8.40	1904, 1934, 1935
			2103	2.15	2117	0.17	1938, 1939, 1944
			2104	0.80	2118	1.31	1945, 1946, 1951
			2105	0.80	2119	1.87	2101, 2100, 2099,
			2106	8.10	2119		2098, 2097, 2094,
			2107	0.47	2143	4.62	2093, 2091,
			2108	0.45	2120	0.44	2090, 2089, 2088,
			2109	12.30	2121	2.10	2087, 212, 2086,
					2119/ 2149	1.87	Plot Nos. of village Damsum 1, 6, 7, 8.

Name of Factory	Where situated		Area				Limits (Boundaries)
	Village	Police station, etc.	Plot No.	Area	Plot No.	Area	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Astarang	Timor	Roven Thana No 189	28	3 74	200	4 44	East—Plot Nos of village Dam- run—
			35	14 58	201	0 50	
			130	0 52	202	7 28	12, 13, 37, 38, 44, 43, 40, 41, 48 51, 52, 53, 112, 810, 117, 118, 119, 120, 156, 157, 158, 159, 564, 354, 353, 770, 352, 787, 350, 351, 352, 391, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 410, 415, 416, 420, Plot No 224, of village Timor
			132	0 74	203	2 20	
			159	0 95	204	4 47	
			160	0 63	205	0 04	
			161	0 21	206	4 25	
			163	0 78	207	9 52	
			179	8 80	208	4 91	
			181	1 64	209	11 62	
			182	7 65	210	11 80	
			183	3 51	211	7 82	
			184	7 60	212	0 09	
			185	4 68	213	2 82	
			186	1 97	214	1 52	
			187	8 25	215	2 43	
			188	0 60	216	0 64	
			189	0 96	217	14 20	
			190	0 42	218	0 84	
			191	0 38	219	20 35	West—Plot Nos of village Timor. 173, 177, 178, 176, 162, 129, 127, 126, 131, 123, 133, 134, 135, 158, 73, 72, 63, 62, 61, 39, 38, 36, 34, 33, 32, Por- tion of Plot Nos 28, 6, 4, Plot Nos of village Astar- ang—1584, 1583 1588, 1589 (Portion).
			192	0 76	220	35 70	
			193	0 83	221	8 86	
			194	18 65	222	0 30	
			195	0 64	223	12 85	
			196	1 72	225	1 63	
			197	8 14	211		
			198	4 43	227	2 56	
			199	0 44	210		
					228	10 90	
					219		
					237	7 55	

Name of Factory	Where situated		Area				Limits (Boundaries)
	Village	Police Station etc.	Plot No.	Area	Plot No.	Area	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Damaun	Revenue Thana No. 180	9	1 57	339	1 61	
			10	0 28	340	2 64	
			11	2 01	341	5 86	
			38	0 28	342	2 42	
			39	5 08	343	23 70	
			328	21 58	344	0 62	
			329	0 41	345	1 20	
			330	0 02	346	40	
			331	0 11	347	0 88	
			332	0 04	348	0 64	
			333	23 00	349	6 74	
			334	0 19	350	11 90	
			335	2 57	351	9 16	
			336	0 17	420	2 60	
			337	9 70	From 574	5 38	
			338	2 60	808	0 80	
	Timor	Revenue Thana No. 189	74	1 18			North—Plot No. 73
			75	1 00			East—Plot Nos 73, 158
			76	1 22			South—Plot Nos. 92, 153, 154, 157.
			77	2 00			West—Plot Nos. 80, 81, 84, 88 and Badanal Pada No 187
			78	0 39			
			79	0 27			
			155	0 36			
			156	2 20			
					Total .	566 09	

APPENDIX "D"

Tua. I	Tua	Revenue Thana No. 302	77	0 011		North—Plot Nos. 37
		Touzi	78	0 006		—, 38 (Portion), 2
		No. 50 Police Station— Brahma- giri District Puri.	79	0 006		167, 166 164, 165, 2 2
			80	0 006		160, 161, 82, 64.
			81	0 006		East—Plot Nos. 76/1167, 193, 177.
			82	0 006		176, 175, 173, 489, 487.

APPENDIX

1303

Name of Factory	Where situated		Area				Limits (Boundaries)
	Village	Police Station etc.	Plot No	Area	Plot No	Area	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			83	0 005			South—Sedua River West—Plot No. 33.
			84	0 006			
			85	0 005			
			86	0 005			
			87	0 006			
			88	0 797			
			From 76	0 231			
			163	0 010			
			166	3 158			
			168	0 200			
			170	1 897			
			171	154 079			
			169	62 968			
			173	0 018			
			36	2 010			
			37	58 877			
			174	0 865			
			34	0 474			
			38	0 560			
			35	81 914			
			Total	368 126			

APPENDIX "E"

Tua II.	Tua	Revenue	73	0 006			North—Sarkari Outsido Chulka, Plot Nos. 160, 54.
		Thana	74	0 004			
		No 302	75	0 030			East—Plot Nos. 168, 173, 166/1, 163, 157, 160
		Touzi	76	1 057			
		No. 50	164	0 015			South—Plot Nos. 37/1, 160, 38.
		Police	165	0 017			
		Station-	166	3 135			West—Plot Nos. 33, 32, 20, 31, Kinohpur Nala.
		Brahma-	167	62 806			
		giri	168	0 200			
		District	38	0 529			
		Furl.	37	57 197			
			34	0 474			
			39	280 294			
		Total		386 074			

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

[18TH Nov. 1946]

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 30th March 1946

No 2—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (xvii) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises, and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to remit the duty imposed under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the said Act on salt obtained by the Director of Fisheries, Orissa, or by any officer authorised by him in this behalf, from any salt factory or depot in the Province of Orissa for use in any fish curing yard controlled by the Fisheries Department of the Government of Orissa

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 1st April 1946

No 3—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) read with clause (XVII) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt, Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to make the following rule, namely—

Rule

Salt removed from saltpetre refineries in the Punjab the United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa, Delhi or Ajmer Merwara, is hereby exempted from the duty imposed on salt by section 3 of the Central Excises and Salt Act 1944 (I of 1944), read with section 2 of the Indian Finance Act, 1946—

(a) in the case of sita (i.e. impure salt) unfit for human consumption, to the extent of one rupee and eight annas per standard maund,

(b) in the case of salt other than sita to the extent of one Rupee and one anna per standard maund

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 20th April 1946

No 4—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made in the Notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues) No 1 Salt, dated the 9th March, 1946, namely—

In the said Notification, in column 1 of Appendix 'D' for the word and figure "Tua I" the words "Mahapatra Salt Factory" shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 14th September 1946

No 5—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (xvii) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made in the rules published with the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No 2-Camp/Salt, dated the 9th February 1946, namely—

In subrule (3) of rule 13 of the said Rules for the words "between the hours of sunrise and sunset" the words "during the normal working hours of the factory on working days" shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 14th September 1946

No 6—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (xvii) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the rules published with the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues) No 1-Salt, dated the 12th January 1935, namely —

In sub-rule (3) of rule 8 of the said Rules, for the words "between the hours of sunrise and sunset", the words "during the normal working hours of the factory or works on working days" shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 14th September 1946

No 7—In pursuance of the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No 3-Salt, dated the 25th March 1939, and of item No 25(2) of the First schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Central Board of Revenue, with the previous sanction of the Central Government, hereby directs that the following further amendment shall be made in the rules published with its notification No 5 Salt, dated the 25th March 1939, namely —

In sub-rule (3) of rule 6 of the said Rules, for the words "between the hours of sunrise and sunset" the words "during the normal working hours of the factory or works on working days" shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 14th September 1946

No 8—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (xvii) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Rules published with the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No 5-Salt, dated the 4th February 1928, namely —

In sub-rule (3) of rule 6 of the said Rules, for the words "between the hours of sunrise and sunset", the words "during the normal working hours of the factory or works on working days", shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (REVENUE DIVISION)

NOTIFICATION

SALT

New Delhi, the 19th October 1946

No 9—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (xvii) of sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), and in supersession of the notifications of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), Nos 6-Salt and 7-Salt, dated the 7th March 1942, the Central Government is pleased to exempt from the payment of the duty leviable under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the said Act,

salt manufactured in the Province of Madras, and exported by sea or by land to States of Travancore and Cochin, subject to the following rules namely :—

RULES

General.

- (1) The salt shall be carried in sealed bags and weighed on arrival.
- (2) No allowance shall be made for wastage in transit. Single duty at the rate in force in British India shall be levied on all short deliveries, the duty so collected being credited to the State concerned.

(Exports by sea)

- (3) Where salt is exported by sea
 - (i) the procedure laid down in the Madras Salt Transport Rules, 1943, shall be followed except that the duty shall not be prepaid by the exporter who shall execute a bond for an amount equal to single duty, and
 - (ii) the salt shall not be landed at any place other than the specified destination in the State.

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